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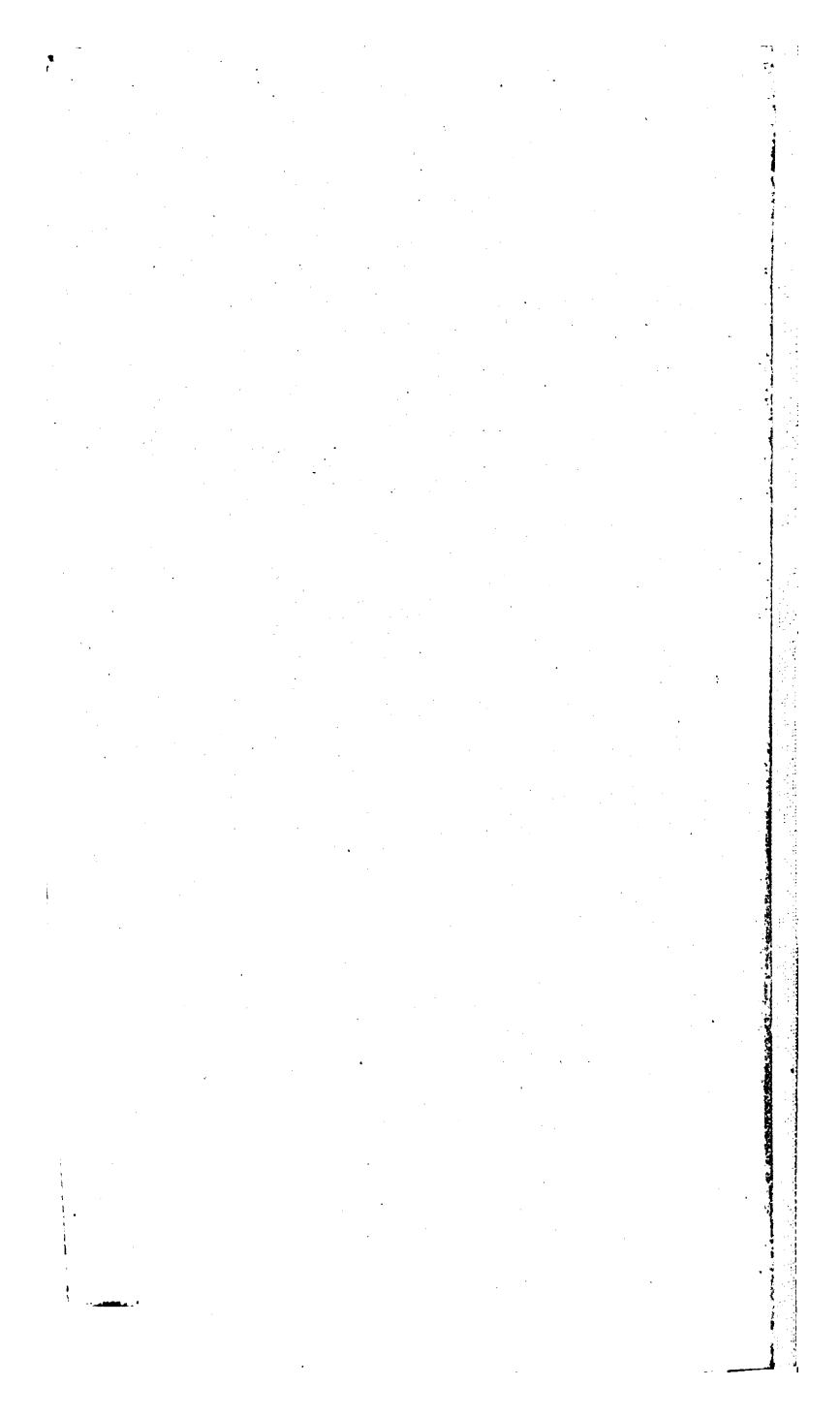
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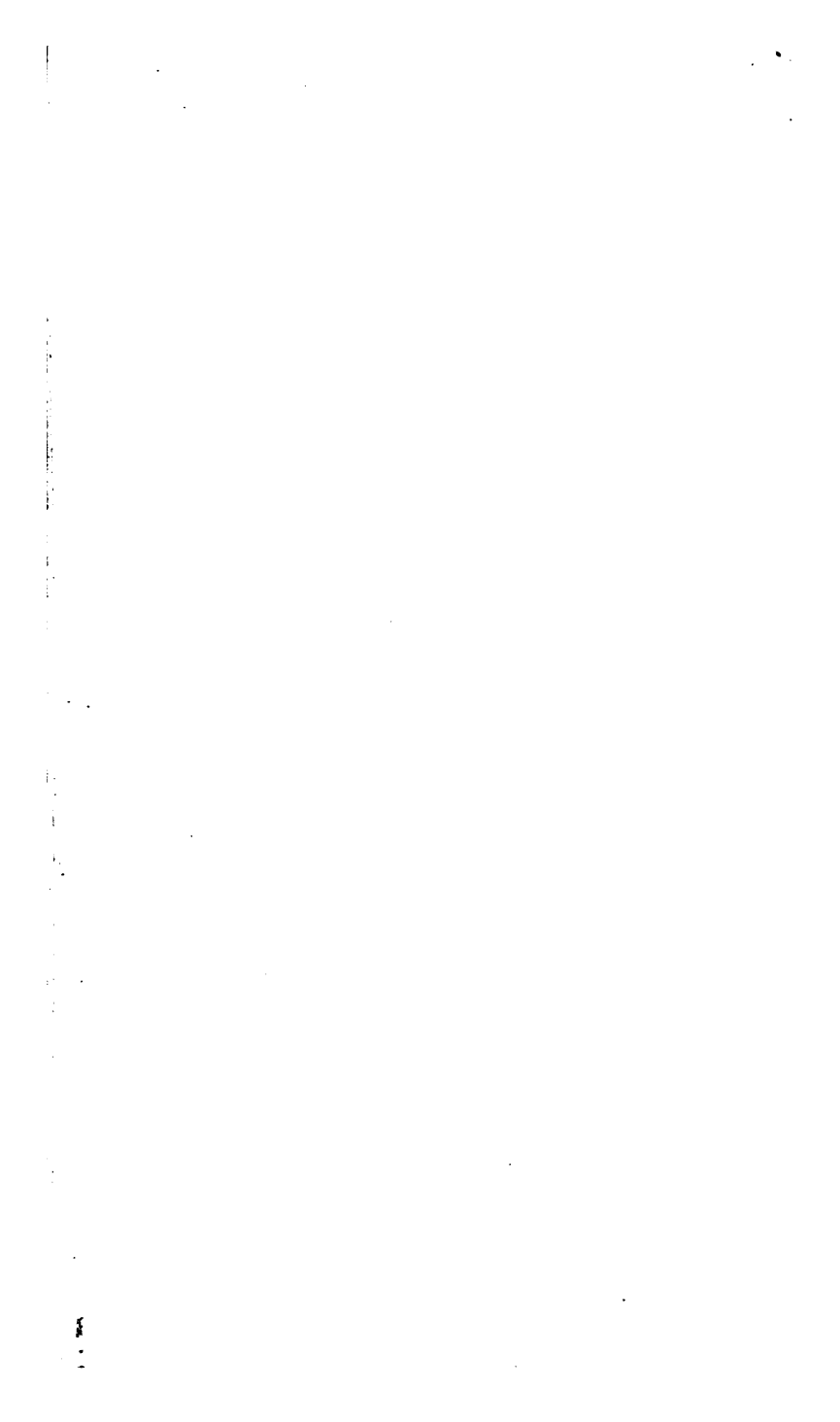
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# GENERAL VIEW OF BORDEAUX.

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# B O R D E A U X:

ITS WINES,

AND

THE CLARET COUNTRY.

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BY

C. COCKS, B.L.

PROFESSOR OF THE LIVING LANGUAGES IN THE ROYAL  
COLLEGES OF FRANCE;

TRANSLATOR OF "PRIESTS, WOMEN, AND FAMILIES," "THE PEOPLE,"  
"ANTONIO PEREZ AND PHILIP II.," ETC. ETC.

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**MINISTRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR, ETC. ETC.**  
**PROPRIÉTAIRE DU CRÛ DE LAGRANGE ST. JULIEN, MÉDOC.**

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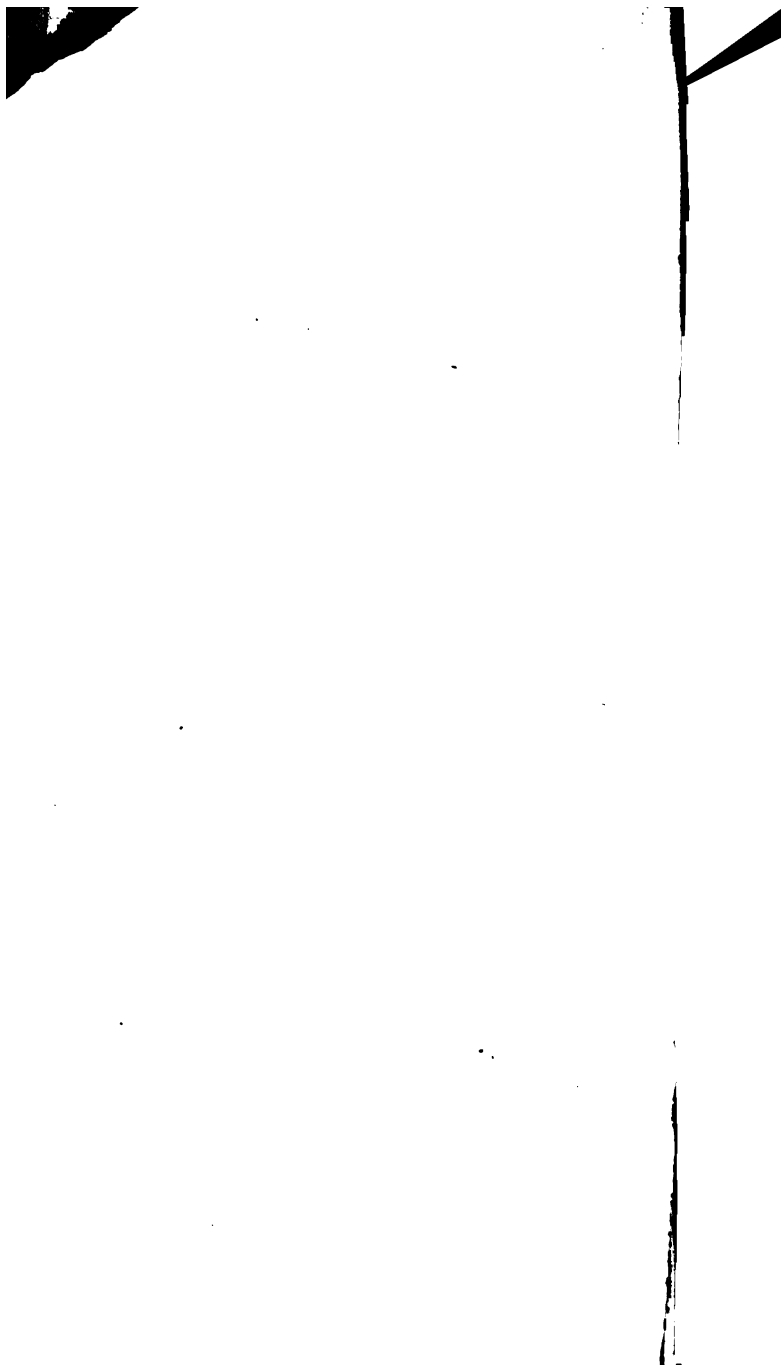
**MONSIEUR LE COMTE,**

IN dedicating to you a volume of such humble pretensions, I have not considered the Statesman whose public services are acknowledged throughout France; but I avail myself of an Author's privilege in order to re-echo the sentiments of your fellow-countrymen, by paying my tribute of respect to the eminent Proprietor of one of the most remarkable growths of this province, and to his zeal for the introduction of every improvement calculated to benefit the cultivation of the soil, and to promote the welfare of the inhabitants of St. Julien.

I have the honour to be,  
Monsieur le Comte,  
Your very humble and  
Very obedient Servant,

**THE AUTHOR.**

Bordeaux, June, 1846.



## PREFACE.

---

A RESIDENCE of several years in this delightful part of France has enabled the Author of this little volume, not only to consult all the most authentic documents relating to Bordeaux and its famous wines; but, generally speaking, to assure himself of the truth of their statements by personal observation and experience.

The authors whose works have been consulted are duly noticed in the margin. They are, for the most part, men who were natives of the province, or who had made its history and the study of its produce the occupation of their lives.

To these works, therefore, and to an elaborate *Histoire de Bordeaux* about to be published by his learned friend M. J. Rabanis, *Doyen de la Faculté des Lettres*, the Author must refer the

studious reader who may desire a more detailed account of this charming country, rendered so interesting by historical reminiscences as the old English province of Guienne—so important by its celebrated produce and extensive commerce, as the department of the Gironde—and so especially endeared to the writer himself, by the double ties of friendship and affection.

C. C.

Bordeaux, July, 1846.

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## BORDEAUX AND ITS WINES.

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### VIEW OF BORDEAUX.

WHEN the traveller, drawing near his journey's end, first obtains a view of Bordeaux, as he descends the green hills of the Bastide, he is instantly struck with the imposing grandeur of the scene opening before him: the variegated plain below, the noble river beyond, the city, with its graceful spires and antique towers in the distance, the semicircular port, bounded by the elegant crescent of the Chartrons, and crowded with many hundred ships, displaying flags of every nation, form, altogether, a panorama perhaps unrivalled in Europe.

Passing over the bridge, one of the handsomest in the world, he has the fine old church and tower of St. Michael\* on the left, a triumphal arch, called Porte de Bourgogne, opposite to him, and, following the course of the river, he will soon perceive an old

\* For a description of these and other buildings see *Antiquities*, &c. p. 61.

Gothic gate of the feudal palace *de l'Ombrière*.\* The next building of consequence is the *douane*, or custom-house, and, afterwards, the *bourse*, or exchange, the site of which, formerly the western boundary of the old feudal city, now forms the eastern corner of the finest thoroughfare in Bordeaux, called Fossés de l'Intendance, a street that may vie with some of the noblest in the capital. Proceeding up this grand entrance, the stranger will be delighted with the sight of many splendid buildings, such as the préfecture and the theatre on the right, and several fine hotels on the left, near one of which, the Hotel de Rouen, is the present temporary post-office.

The Fossés de l'Intendance, as already mentioned, separates the old town, composed of narrow lanes and curious old-fashioned irregular houses, from the new and fashionable quarter, which consists of fine open streets, squares, promenades, and avenues; the most conspicuous of which are the gravel walks of the Quinconces, and the public garden.

In this part of the town, every thing has a modern appearance; you might fancy yourself to be in almost any fine city of Europe; but, after a few minutes' walk in the contrary direction, you would imagine,

\* Opposite to this gate was suspended the arm of Bertrand de Gourdon, who was flayed alive for having shot the fatal arrow which caused the death of Richard Cœur-de-Lion.—*MS. de la Bibliothèque.*

what is really the truth, that you are transported into a town of the middle ages.\*

The magnificent rows of houses forming the boundary of the Quinconces, have been named after the present king, Louis-Philippe, and his family. This place is adorned with two rostral columns, surmounted by stone statues representing Commerce and Navigation. To the left of these columns is the mercantile quarter of the town, termed *Quartier des Chartrons*†, composed of the greater part of a magnificent crescent of houses in the Italian style, and of several streets running from it at right angles, the finest of which is, undoubtedly, that called *Le Pavé des Chartrons*, which has been lately adorned with a row of elegant houses built in the London fashion; in this row is situated the new English church.‡

The other principal squares are the *Place de la*

\* Here, at every step, one is surrounded with historical monuments and agreeable reminiscences. Many of the old streets and lanes (Rue des Batrutiers, &c.) contain curious old houses worth visiting. The very street in which I now live (Rue des Ayres) speaks volumes. Opposite me is the church in which Montaigne lies buried; and, a few doors off, on my left, is the old inn where, according to a MS. in the Bibliothèque, the Black Prince had his garde-robe and stables, and where, a few years later, that fine old warrior Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, "the scourge of France," usually resided.

† So called from a convent of Chartreux friars, which no longer exists.

‡ See *Modern Buildings*, p. 74.

*Comédie*, the *Place Dauphine*, the *Place Royale*, and the *Place Tourny*; the latter so called from the name of a celebrated *intendant* of this province, who, in 1750, greatly improved the appearance of the city.

Omnibuses, cabriolets, and coaches of a very superior description, abound in Bordeaux, by means of which, at a very trifling expense, one may traverse this long and somewhat straggling city in every direction.

The most remarkable buildings, after the theatre and the bridge, are the churches; the principal of which will be found more particularly described in another part of this volume.\* They are as follow: the cathedral of St. André, the churches of St. Croix, St. Seurin, St. Michael, St. Pierre, and St. Paul, not forgetting the *Chapelle du Collège*, which contains the tomb of Montaigne.

The ruins of a Roman arena, situated between the Rue Palais Galien and the Rue Trésorerie, are also well worthy of the traveller's attention. This building, like the churches and city gates, will be found more fully described among the antiquities.

Bordeaux has a gallery of pictures and a museum of natural history and antiquities; the former is on the ground-floor of the *Mairie*, and the latter in the Rue St. Dominique; neither is particularly remark-

\* See Antiquities, p. 61.

able. The public library, placed in the same hotel as the museum, is composed of more than 100,000 volumes, among which must be mentioned a copy of Montaigne's *Essays*, with notes in his own handwriting, and an illuminated translation of Livy.

There is a tolerably good reading-room at the corner opposite the theatre, where English, French, German, Spanish, and other newspapers, are found in great abundance. Paris, and even London editions of English works, may be found at Chaumas-Gayet's, No. 34. Fossés de l'Intendance, and at C. Lawalle's, Allées de Tourny, besides a good supply of French, German, and Spanish works.

There are many public establishments of baths; the best, perhaps, are those on the right and left of the Quinconces.

The chief inns are the *Hotels de Rouen, de France\**, *de Richelieu, de Paris*, and *de la Paix*, where the accommodation and fare are very good, and the charges not extravagant; the Café de Paris is also a very good restaurant.

Many pleasant and interesting excursions are to be made from Bordeaux; a journey by the railroad to La Teste and the bathing establishments on the basin of Arcâchon†; trips by steamers up the river

\* The *Hotels de Rouen* and *de France* are now combined, and form one establishment, under the direction of Mr. Hue, jun., and Co.

† See *Railroad to La Teste, &c.*, p. 105.

to Langon, or even to La Réole, and down towards the sea to Royan\*; besides excursions to the *Château de la Brède*, the residence of Montesquieu, to the *Château de Blanquefort*, the residence of the Black Prince; and further on, in the same direction, to the famous vineyards of Médoc, producing wines which Louis XIV. very justly termed the *nectar of the gods*.

Should the traveller wish to behold some thousands of hogsheads of this same *nectar*, his desire will be gratified by visiting either the cellars of Messrs. Barton and Questier, the vast *chais* of Mr. N. Johnston and Sons†, near the railroad, or those of F. Cutler, the English vice-consul.

Every nation of Europe is here represented by its consul. The honour and commercial interests of Great Britain are worthily maintained and protected by Brand Graham Scott, Esq., *Place Champ de Mars*.

\* See *View of the River*, &c., p. 115.

† Mr. Murray, in his *Hand-book of France* (quoting, perhaps unwittingly, the very words of the Duke of Gloucester in 1815) has very justly termed the cellars of Messrs. Barton and Questier the *Lions* of Bordeaux. Those of Mr. N. Johnston and Sons are equally remarkable. I remember seeing the latter cellars when they had been illuminated on the occasion of their being visited by a son of the greatest statesman of modern times: nothing could equal the magical effect of the innumerable wax candles, revealing interminable rows of casks, and reflected in many hundred thousand bottles in this subterraneous fairy-land, or rather kingdom of Ganymede!

## PART I.

## HISTORY OF BORDEAUX.

BORDEAUX, the chief town of the Gironde\*, next to Paris the finest, and after Lyons the most important city in France, was called *Burdigala* by the Romans, and became under Augustus the metropolis of *Aquitania*, which extended from the banks of the Loire to the Pyrenees.

Its earlier history is involved in doubt and obscurity. Excepting a few vague geographical indications in the works of Pliny†, the Roman writers have left us no kind of information respecting this part of Gaul; even Julius Cæsar, who in general is so particular in enumerating all the nations who submitted to his victorious arms, has not honoured the *Bituriges-Vivisci* with a single line in his immortal Commentaries. Strabo, however, who lived in the first century of the Christian era, mentions *Burdi-*

\* The department is so called from the name which the river Garonne receives at its conflux with the Dordogne.

† Some suppose that the *Boii*, mentioned by Pliny, inhabited the sea coast near *La Teste*, the present fashionable bathing-place, and that the *Medulli* were the ancient inhabitants of *Médoc*, the claret country.

gala, the chief town of the Bituriges-Vivisci, as a celebrated *emporium*\*; and the researches of modern historians incline them to believe its primitive inhabitants to have been of a Siberian origin†, and to have formed the vanguard of that vast army of nations who, under the denomination of Gauls, Celts, and Kimri, at a later period marched, in the early ages, from the frozen regions of Northern Asia, to take possession of the forests and deserts of Europe.

Strictly speaking, the history of this city begins about the middle of the third century, when Tetricus, the governor of Aquitania, assumed the purple, and was proclaimed emperor there in the year 268. At that period, also, St. Martial is said to have preached Christianity in this part of France, though, perhaps, with no great success, for ancient inscriptions prove very plainly that the Bituriges-Vivisci still invoked the pagan gods, even in the time of Ausonius, whose verses do not clearly show whether he worshipped Christ or Jupiter. We learn, however, from the annals of the council of Arles, that a certain Orientalis assumed the title of Bishop of Bordeaux in the year 314.

Under the invigorating influence of Roman domination, the city had emerged from barbarism to a

\* Strabo, Geogr. lib. iv.

† See *L'Histoire des Gaulois*, by A. Thierry, 3 vols., *La Guienne Historique et Monumentale*, by A. Ducourneau, 3 vols., 4to., Bordeaux, 1842.



state of magnificence and luxury, which became a fertile theme for the poets Ausonius, Saint Jerome, and Sidonius Apollinaris.\* Its college, famous throughout the empire, supplied Rome and Constantinople with professors for their schools; and Valentinian I. chose Ausonius, a native of Bordeaux, to superintend the education of his son Gratian; who, on succeeding to the imperial throne, named his professor Roman consul, A. D. 379.

At this time, the territory of Guienne was divided into two provinces, one called Novempopulania and the other Aquitania Secunda: Burdigala remained the metropolis of the latter.

The city, covering an area of 84 acres, surrounded by its four quadrilateral walls and ramparts, flanked with lofty towers, and reflecting its imposing image in the noble river by which it was washed on the eastern side, displayed its arena, its famous fountain Divitia, and its temples, to thousands of admiring strangers; who, following the route primitively traced by the Phœnicians, resorted thither from all parts, in pursuit of science and commerce.† The ruins of some of these vast monuments, and the traces of two aqueducts and other stately edifices, enable us to form some idea of the magnificent ap-

\* Jouannet, *Statistique de la Gironde*, 2 vols. 4to. Paris, 1843.

† *La Guienne Historique et Monumentale*, vol. i. p. 36.

pearance of Burdigala, when Aquitania formed a province of the gigantic Roman empire.

This prosperity was suddenly blasted by an invasion of swarms of Sarmatians, Alans, Herulians, Vandals, and other barbarians, who poured, like a torrent, from the north, upon the peaceful plains of Aquitania, burnt the rising town, and for two years filled the country with ruin and desolation, A. D. 406. Gorged with blood and plunder, they then continued their destructive course towards the south, and, forcing the rocky barrier of the Pyrenees, burst, like an inundation, upon the fertile land of Spain. But Aquitania was not destined to remain free from these ruthless invaders. Honorius, in order to spare Italy, abandoned this part of Gaul to the Visigoths, who, being Arians, subjected the Christian inhabitants to a cruel persecution, A. D. 417. "The churches, deprived of their pastors, remained vacant; the doors were carried away; and sheep browsed about the altars." \*

The province remained for nearly a century in the power of these barbarians, who made the ancient city of the Tectosages, Toulouse, the capital of their kingdom, occasionally holding their court at Bordeaux. † But, Clovis, king of France, having defeated them,

\* A. Ducourneau, *La Guienne Historique et Monumentale*: Introduction, p. 41, &c.

† Sidonius Apollinaris, lib. i. and epis. 2.

and killed their king Alaric, with his own hand, in the famous battle of Vouillé, A. D. 507, took possession of Bordeaux, and made it the metropolis of the kingdom of Aquitania. After his death, the country was, for many years, a continual scene of war and bloodshed, occasioned by the rivalry of his descendants \*, and the invasions of the Vascons, or Gascons, a people of Cantabrian origin, who were, at length, conquered by Dagobert. This king re-established the kingdom of Toulouse A. D. 630: but it soon after became a duchy, and was governed by dukes dependent on the will of the sovereign, till A. D. 696, when it became an independent state.†

In A. D. 731, this country was invaded and devastated by an army of 400,000 Saracens, under the command of Abderamus (Abder-Rahman), who penetrated from the Pyrenees as far as the Loire; but were defeated with great slaughter, in the following year, near Tours, by Eudes, duke of Aquitania, and his ally, Charles Martel: the latter, soon after this, ransacked the province on his own account, in order to punish Hunaud, the successor of Eudes, for attempting to retake the towns which his father had lost. ‡

The conduct of Eudes was remarkable. Before

\* Grégoire de Tours, lib. iii. ch. 1.

† Jouannet, vol. i. p. 190, &c.

‡ *Ibid.*

the decisive battle above mentioned, he had already gained some advantage over the Saracens; and, being at that time menaced by the Franks, he had treated with the Infidels, and bestowed his daughter Lampagie on the emir Munuza \*: "this strange, unprecedented alliance," says M. Michelet, "early characterized that religious indifference of which Guienne and Gascony afford so many examples." †

After a long war between Pepin and Waifer, which ended in the latter being assassinated by the emissaries of the former, the province of Aquitania fell into the power of Charlemagne, who formed it into a kingdom for his infant son Louis le Débonnaire A. D. 778. ‡ According to the chroniclers, Charlemagne had just seen the flower of his army perish at Roncevaux by an overwhelming attack of Vascons and Navarrais, who had surprised and destroyed the rear-guard commanded by his nephew Roland, so celebrated in the romances of chivalry. §

Louis bestowed the kingdom of Aquitania on his second son Pepin, who founded a great many abbeys, and died A. D. 838. At his death, the country was again subjected to all the horrors of war; for the

\* Isid. Pacens, *Histoire Général de Languedoc*.

† Michelet's History of France, vol. i.

‡ Jouannet, *Statistique de la Gironde*, vol. i. p. 192.

§ Lurbeo, *Burdig. Rerum Chron.*, ad ann. 778.

Carlovingian empire was torn piecemeal by furious pretenders; and the Normans having laid waste the north of France, now invaded the coasts of Aquitania, burning and destroying all before them. "In 844, they attacked Bordeaux, and sacked its faubourgs; but, having been repulsed from its walls, they retreated to Bazas, which they reduced to ashes." \*

The Normans, having received a tribute from Charles the Bald, the son of the emperor Louis le Débonnaire, were at length induced to leave the country; which was afterwards governed by Louis, the son of Charles, and the last king of Aquitania, from 866 to 877, when he ascended the throne of France, and the province became a simple duchy, bound to do homage to the king: an obligation that its chiefs disowned whenever they could do so with impunity.

An age pregnant with so many troubles and disorders, was characterised by tokens of repentance; and innumerable were the pilgrimages, pious legacies, and religious foundations, made by the penitent warriors; several of the dukes even ended their days in the cloister. Such were the manners of the time: they thought they could expiate their crimes by enriching the church; and the most licentious life

\* A. Ducourneau. Nic. Brandi, *Gesta Tholosanorum*.

passed for sanctified, when there was time to end it in sackcloth and ashes.\*

In those days of oppression and suffering, the people were in a perpetual state of servitude and warfare. Excepting the ecclesiastics, and the serfs attached to the soil, men of every condition were obliged to live and die in armour. Bordeaux, Bazas, Blaye, and all the other towns of Aquitania, had scarcely recovered from the ravages of the Normans, when their inhabitants were obliged to march against Hugues-Capet, King of France, and, afterwards, against Geoffroi-Grisegonelle, Count of Anjou, whose successors continued to make war upon the dukes of Aquitania for more than a hundred years.†

During this long period, the calamities of war, pestilence, and famine, had filled the people with religious horror; they hastened to bestow their wealth upon the church, and to immure themselves in monasteries; for there was but one cry, "the end of the world is approaching."‡

When national and intestine wars were wanting, the dukes sought opportunities of displaying their valour in perilous enterprises against the infidels in

\* Jouannet, p. 193, 194, &c.

† *Ibid.*

‡ A. Ducourneau.—Many of the charters of this period contain the words, *Mundi fine appropinquante*.—Raoul Glaber, liv. iv., ch. 4.

Spain and Palestine. Guilhelm (William) IX., Count of Poitiers, and the last duke but one of Aquitaine, crossed the Pyrenees several times, to support Alfonzo, King of Aragon, in his war against the Saracens. He was also one of the first to join the crusades; and, according to Louvet, departed for the Holy Land at the head of 160,000 warriors. What is more certain is, that he returned without glory, and without troops. Guilhelm X., the last duke, espoused the cause of Anaclet, the Anti-pope, and defended it with fury; but, being frightened by Saint Bernard, he repented, and tried to obtain his pardon by going on a pilgrimage. This pious journey cost him his life, in the year 1137.\*

Eudes, the son of a Duke of Aquitania, had, in 1039, united this duchy to that of Gascony, and Bordeaux had thus become the capital of a large principality: when Elenor, the daughter and heiress of Guilhelm X., by espousing Louis the Young, son of Louis VI., annexed these dominions to the crown of France. This marriage proved unhappy; Elenor, by the levity of her conduct, had so exasperated her husband, that, on his return from the crusade, in which he had obliged his wife to accompany him, their separation was inevitable.† A council assembled at Baugency, complied with their mutual wishes, by

\* William of Malmesbury, Jouannet, A. Ducourneau, &c.

† Guill. de Tyr, liv. xvi. Guill. Neubrig., liv. i.

sanctioning this impolitic divorce, upon the idle plea of relationship. Elenor then retired to her duchy of Aquitania (A. D. 1152), after having disinherited her two daughters, the fruit of her union with Louis.\* She soon after bestowed her hand on the Count of Anjou, the son of Matilda, the daughter of Henry I. of England; and the count having, at the death of Stephen, succeeded to the throne, under the title of Henry II., the rich provinces of Gascony and Aquitania, henceforth called Guienne, thus became the property of the English crown, to which they belonged for the space of three hundred years.

This marriage, though unfortunate for France, who thus saw her powerful rival in quiet possession of some of her finest provinces, and unhappy for Elenor herself, was not disadvantageous for Guienne. Bordeaux increased wonderfully in prosperity under the judicious administration of its new possessors, and soon became a source of riches for London.† Henry enlarged and embellished the town‡, rebuilt its cathedral, and conferred on the province a great number of privileges. The country, however, was

\* Jouannet, *Statistique*, &c., vol. i. p. 195. A. Ducourneau, vol. i. p. 91.

† The first known act relative to the importation of foreign wine in England dates from 1154.

‡ The walled *enceinte* of the Romans, comprising an area of eighty-four acres, was extended by Henry, so as to include a superficies of about 110 acres.



for a considerable period infested and devastated by bodies of mercenary troops, or rather robbers, who resorted thither from all sides in order to sell their lives to Henry, and afterwards to his son Richard Cœur-de-Lion, in fighting their battles against the kings of France.\*

Richard, who, as we know, had excited the whole province of Guienne to rebel against his father, regretted when too late the disorders that had accompanied his civil, or rather patricidal, warfare; the country was everywhere infested with robbers.†

His brother and successor, John, having refused to appear before the French court, to answer the accusation of having murdered his nephew Arthur, was condemned to death, and his estates were confiscated to the crown of France. Philip Augustus, to execute this sentence, levied a numerous army, and seized upon almost the whole of John's continental dominions; but Guienne was spared, on condition that he would acknowledge fealty to Philip, A. D. 1208.

In the first year of this reign, a *maximum* price was established for imported French wines: the value of a tun of Poitou wine, for instance, was fixed at twenty sous sterling; that of Anjou at

\* Hume, *History of the House of Plantagenet*, vol. i. p. 373.; Daniel, *Histoire de France*, vol. iii. p. 302.; Jouannet, &c.

† Jouannet, p. 199.

twenty-four sous; and all other French wines at twenty-five sous; "unless the wine be so good that one be willing to give two marks and more for it." \*

The right of seizure, termed *prisa*, which entitled the king to two hogsheads of wine in every cargo, to be taken one fore and one aft, seems also to date from about the same period.†

The unfortunate province, that had been so long suffering from the cruel depredations of the adventurers, was now scourged, for nearly forty years, by a sanguinary persecution practised upon its early reformers, the Albigenses‡, and still further op-

\* Johannes rex statuit quod nullum tonellum vini Pictaven-sis vendatur carius quam xx solidis, et nullum tonellum vini Andegavensis carius quam xxiv solidis, et nullum tonellum vini Franciæ carius quam pro xxv solidis, nisi vinum illud adeo bonum sit, quod aliquis velit pro eo dare circa duas marcas et altius. — *Annal. Monast. Burton*, p. 257.; quoted by Franck, p. 205.

† In 1213 we find, in John's financial account, a sum of 517 livres eleven shillings for purchasing 348 tuns of foreign wine, of which 222 were wines from Gascony, besides forty-five tuns, called *prisa*; which proves the arrival of twenty-three cargoes. Among these wines were three tuns of Saxony (probably Rhenish), all *prisa*; the court bought none: a proof of their comparative inferiority. There is also mention made of fourteen tuns of Auxerre purchased, and two acquired by right of *prisa*. — *Ibid.* The same author quotes another interesting fact: that, in 1209, king John exempted from every tax a portion of the hundred *muids*, or hogsheads, of wine, which the king of France sent, as a present, to the monks of Christ-Church at Cambridge.

‡ See Michelet's *Histoire de France*, vol. ii.

pressed by the tyrannical conduct of the English seneschals and bailiffs, who took advantage of these troubles to exact from the trembling inhabitants the most exorbitant contributions; insulting and maltreating whoever refused to submit to their cupidity.

This oppression continued under the feeble reign of Henry III., and was carried to such an extremity that the ruined and almost depopulated parishes forwarded their complaints to the king, through the medium of the archbishop and clergy of Bordeaux, A. D. 1235. Louis IX., taking advantage of this feeble state of the country, made several successful attacks upon the English provinces, and was on the point of driving the Plantagenets from their last continental possessions, when the climate so thinned the ranks of his army, that he was obliged to accept the truce offered by Henry, A. D. 1243.

During the reign of this monarch, a part of Guienne was inundated, in 1259, by a new species of depredators, termed *pastoureaux*, or fanatical shepherds, who overran several provinces, giving out that they were called to conquer the Holy Land, demanding alms, and piously slaughtering all the Jews who fell into their hands.\*

The death of Henry III.†, which happened in

\* Jouannet, p. 200. note.

† We find, from the accounts of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that, in the year 1246, a sum of £404 was paid for

1271, was followed by a few years' tranquillity, owing to the wise administration of Edward I. This prince, when governor, had created many useful establishments, defended the interests of the province, founded and fortified several towns, and embellished the city of Bordeaux. This return of felicity, however, was not destined to last. Edward, being called to the English throne, was obliged to forsake a people whose affection for him was in proportion to their hatred for his tyrannical predecessors.\* Accordingly, in 1282, when his lord paramount forbade the province to send him a supply of men to aid him in his war against Scotland, the cities of Bordeaux, Bazas, Bourg, and others, eluded the prohibition by sending him considerable sums of money.† Edward was not wanting in gratitude; for, on the 13th of August, 1302, he granted a charter, by which he abrogated the *droit de prise* in favour of the merchants of Gui-

404 *dolia*, or tuns, of wine of Gascony and Anjou, imported at London and Sandwich; and another sum of £1,846 for purchasing 901 tuns of Gascony and Anjou wines. Henry III. imposed a new tax (*gauge*) of 1*d.* upon imported wines; which tax, between Michaelmas-day in 1272 and St. Martin's 1273, produced £36 17*s.* 2*d.*; proving an importation of 8,846 tuns, independently of the wines adjudged to the king by the right of *prisa*, and exempt from the contribution of the *gauge*.—*Franck*, p. 206. note.

\* Jouannet, p. 202.; Roles Gascons, ann. 1281, 1282; Rymer, vol. i. part 2. p. 219.

† *Ibid.*

enne; and endeavoured, though in vain, to obtain from the corporation of London permission for the Bordeaux merchants to lodge in the city; demanding of them, moreover, why they required the Gascons to pay them a *pontage*, or bridge duty, of two-pence per tun of wine. The citizens replied that the Bordeaux merchants, like all other foreigners, had never any right to a lodging within the city; and that they were only allowed to deposit their wines in cellars for a certain time, determined by custom, and which must not exceed forty days. As to the right of *pontage*, it was established by virtue of a permission of the king himself, upon all wines that passed under London Bridge, in order to contribute to the expense of repairs.\*

In 1293 a quarrel between a few English and Norman sailors, in which one of the latter was killed, sufficed to rekindle the flames of war. A fleet of two hundred vessels that had sailed from the ports of Normandy to purchase wine in the South, had

\* Jules Delpit, quoted by Franck. Taxes on wines in the province of Guienne at that time, according to an act passed between the king and the inhabitants of Clairac in 1287, seem to have been as follows: every tun of wine taken from Clairac to Bordeaux, to be taxed five sous four deniers tournois; another duty, called *droit d'ysat*, amounted to half that sum; and the duty of Royan (*costuma de Royano*) was fixed at two deniers: making the sum total of eight sous two deniers, or about £10 in modern money.—*Ibid.*

seized, plundered, or destroyed all the English vessels it had found on its passage. An English fleet, less numerous but better armed, then lay in wait for that of the Normans, attacked it furiously, beat it completely, and sunk, took, or burnt nearly all the vessels, giving no quarter. The war immediately became general between these naval powers.\*

Edward was now summoned by his lord paramount, the king of France, to give an account before the French court of peers, for the excesses committed by the English sailors. Being occupied with his war in Scotland, he sent his brother Edmund, duke of Lancaster, a confiding person, to enter upon negotiations with Philip. Edmund was easily persuaded by the latter to allow him to take formal possession of Guienne, upon his promise to restore it immediately to his royal vassal. But as soon as Philip had taken possession, he summoned the English monarch anew, condemned him by default, and confiscated his province.†

Edward, finding himself duped, had recourse to arms. In 1295 he despatched several bodies of troops to Guienne, under the orders of his brother Edmund, who died soon after his arrival, and was succeeded by the earl of Lincoln. Blaye, La Réole,

\* Hume, vol. ii. p. 104. ; Rymer, *Acta p.*, vol. ii. p. 618. Lingard, vol. ii.

† Rymer, vol. i. part 3. p. 132. ; Lingard, &c.

Bourg, Rions, and other places about Bordeaux, were soon retaken by the English. After the war had lasted for more than a year, a treaty of commerce, and a two-fold alliance was proposed: Philip's sister, Marguerite, was to be married to Edward, whose son was to receive the hand of Philip's daughter, Isabella. Guienne, however, was not restored to Edward till the 20th of May, 1303.\*

During the reign of his feeble successor, Edward II., La Réole, and a few other towns, were retaken by the French; but his criminal consort, Isabella, obtained a cessation of hostilities, on condition that Edward should bestow the province on his son, then thirteen years of age, and that the latter should go

\* Rymer, vol. ii. p. 239.; Jouannet, p. 201.; Lingard. The Bordeaux wine trade began to flourish during this reign. In 1290 the price of wine had been fixed at three deniers per gallon; in consequence of which, in 1299, as many as seventy-three vessels, each having more than nineteen tuns of wine on board, arrived at London. An act of 1302 appoints six sworn tasters to verify the wines, and throw them away if they prove bad. In 1309 we find serious disturbances in London, occasioned by the quarrels between the citizens and the Gascon merchants; several persons were killed on both sides. In 1311, wines were dearer than they had ever been before. It is therefore enacted, that nobody, save the king's *bouteiller* (butler), is to go to meet the merchants to buy up wine; and even this functionary is to buy only what is necessary for the royal table. It is further enacted, that no tavern-keeper shall sell wine till it has been inspected, marked at both ends, and its value indicated: the value of the best wine is fixed at five deniers per gallon.

to Paris, to do homage to the king of France. This was a snare laid by Isabella and her paramour, Mortimer; and which, seven months later, brought about the cruel end of the unfortunate Edward, A. D. 1327.\*

Edward III., having revenged his father's death, laid claim to the throne of France, A. D. 1337. The war, begun in Flanders, and continued in Brittany, at length reached Guienne. In 1345 the earl of Derby, Edward's cousin, landed there with a few troops, and soon took Langon, Libourne, La Réole, and even Angoulême. The most brilliant action of the campaign took place before the walls of Auberoche, where Derby, with 900 men, defeated and almost destroyed a French army 12,000 strong, commanded by Count de Lisle. Nine counts or viscounts were taken prisoners, and every English man-at-arms returned with two or three barons, knights, or squires, as his trophy.† Though the earl of Derby was afterwards obliged to retreat for a moment before superior forces, yet a diversion made by Edward himself in the north of France soon after permitted him to maintain his advantages: Philip was obliged to recall his army, and thus the earl of Derby remained master of the field.

The result of Edward's invasion, so glorious for

\* Hume, ann. 1325; Rymer, iv.; Lingard, &c.

† Froissard, ch. 105, 106.; Lingard.



England, and so disastrous for France, was the famous battle of Crecy, in 1346, where the French army outnumbered the English in the proportion of eight to one.

About this period Edward erected Guienne into a principality, which he bestowed upon the Black Prince, who went to reside there. On the 6th of October, 1355, the prince having received orders from his father to make an incursion upon the dominions of the king of France, left the walls of Bordeaux, traversed the county of Armagnac, and penetrated as far as the Pyrenees, dividing his army into several bodies, or *batailles*, that they might ravage a greater extent of territory, and commanding his men to pillage, burn, and destroy. Turning, afterwards, towards the north, he laid waste the country as far as the city of Toulouse. There he halted for two days, hoping to bring the enemy to an engagement; and on the third waded the Garonne, and continued his work of destruction up to Carcassonne and Narbonne. Then, loaded with booty, his army returned towards Bordeaux, the enemy everywhere retreating before them. It is supposed that in the space of seven weeks the prince had reduced to ashes more than five hundred cities, towns, and villages.\*

The honour and profit of this campaign induced the prince of Wales, on the 6th of July, in the fol-

\* Avesbury, 210—226.; Froissard, ch. clv.; Lingard.

lowing year, to make a similar attempt. With a small army of from 8000 to 12,000 men, of whom about one-third were English and the others Gascon knights and their followers, the prince left Bordeaux, ascended the Garonne as far as Agen, and, turning to the left, ravaged the fertile provinces of Quercy, Limousin, Auvergne, and Berry. The corn, wine, cattle, and other provisions, except what was wanted for the army, were destroyed; the towns and villages reduced to ashes; and the captives, whom they expected to be ransomed, sent to Bordeaux. One afternoon, however, the English army, after a fatiguing march, had just reached the village of Maupertuis, about five miles from Poitiers, when they suddenly found themselves in presence of an immense army of 60,000 men, commanded by the king of France in person (Sept. 17. 1356). "God help us!" cried the prince, who immediately perceived the danger of his position; "it only remains for us to fight valiantly."\*

The numerical superiority of the French was partly counterbalanced by the advantageous position of the English, on a rising ground covered with vines and hedges, most unfavourable for the attacks of the French cavalry, and accessible only on one point by a long narrow defile, where only four cavaliers, at most, could ride abreast. In the morning, the prince ordered his men-at-arms to form on foot at the head

\* Avesbury; Froissard; Lingard.

of this road. He then posted half his archers before them, "and contrived an ambush of 300 men-at-arms and as many archers, whom he put under the command of the Captal de Buche," with orders to place themselves along the bushes on the left. John divided his army into three bodies on foot, one of which was commanded by the Duke of Orleans, another by his three elder sons, and the third by his younger son and himself. Three small bodies, also, remained on horseback, one of which was charged with the dangerous mission of dislodging the archers placed at the head of the English line.\*

Cardinal Talleyrand Perigord, who arrived upon the field of battle as the troops were forming, "raising his hands to heaven," besought the king to spare the blood of so many noble knights, and not to risk by a battle the advantages that he would certainly obtain by a negociation. His prayers seeming to prevail with the king, he next hastened to the Prince of Wales. "Save our honour," said the prince, "and we will listen to any reasonable conditions." The worthy cardinal toiled all that day and a part of the following morning, running from one army to the other. It was all in vain: the ultimatum of the King of France was, that Edward and a hundred of his knights should give themselves up as prisoners of

\* Hume, *Edward III.*, p. 326. — See also my description of *La Teste*, p. 58.

war. "God defend the right!" cried the Prince of Wales; and the departure of the legate was the signal of battle.

The French marshals at the head of their cavalry dashed with intrepidity into the defile, where they advanced without molestation. At last the order was given; the archers from behind the bushes let fly their arrows with deadly aim; the passage was crowded with the wounded and the dying, and the pressure of the rest of the column, and the plunging of the horses in their agony, increased the confusion. A few horsemen burst through the hedges, and rushed upon the English lines, without being able, however, to reach the main body; but the most of the survivors retreated in disorder towards their second division, which was thus thrown into some confusion. "At this critical moment, Jean de Grailly, Captal de Buche, unexpectedly appeared, and made an impetuous attack in the flank of the dauphin's line.\* The French knights abandoned their banners, and hastened to mount their horses; and the lords who had the charge of the princes, alarmed for their safety, sent them away guarded by eight hundred lances. The departure of this body was considered a flight, and in a few minutes the whole division disbanded and fled. "Sire," said John Chandos to the

\* Hume, *in loco*.

prince, "we are masters of the field: let us to horse, and charge the King of France; by the blessing of God and St. George, he shall be our prisoner." They mounted accordingly, and galloped towards the marsh which was still occupied by the king's troops, drowning the cries of "Montjoie and St. Denis!" by their shouts of "St. George for Guienne!"

In a few minutes the constable of France and the most part of his men were slain; the German cavalry was also dispersed, after losing its three principal commanders. Lastly, John himself, leading his division on foot, and fighting for honour, was wounded in the face, hurled to the ground, and surrounded by a multitude of adversaries, all eager to seize so noble a prey. He at length surrendered to Denis de Morbecque, a French knight belonging to the English army, who led him to the Prince of Wales, by whom he was received and treated with every token of respect. Such was the end of the famous battle of Poitiers, in which all the chivalry of France was defeated by a handful of English and Gascons, and where the king became the prisoner of the prince whom he thought to entrap.\*

The prince returned with his prisoners to Bordeaux, whence he accompanied them in the following spring to England, where they were treated with

\* Froissard, ch. 160, 161.; Avesbury, 252.; Lingard.

respect and generosity by the king his father, and lodged first in the palace of Savoy, and afterwards in Windsor Castle.\*

From this period Bordeaux became the seat of a brilliant and chivalrous court, at which every unfortunate prince, like Peter the Cruel, was hospitably received, who came to demand the assistance of England against France.†

After several glorious campaigns undertaken by the Black Prince in favour of Peter the Cruel, whom he placed upon the throne of Castille, the former returned disgusted from Spain, his health ruined and his finances exhausted. To restore the latter he had recourse to a tax of ten sous on every hearth throughout his principality; an impost which excited universal discontent.

Unmindful of the treaty lately concluded between France and England, by which the Prince of Wales had been acknowledged independent of the crown of France, the discontented barons laid their complaints before Charles V., as if he were still his sovereign lord.‡ Charles immediately summoned the prince before his court of peers. "We will go willingly to our grandfather at Paris," replied the prince; "but it will be with a helmet on our brow, and sixty

\* Froissard; Avesbury; Lingard.

† Hume.

‡ Froissard, ch. 242. 244.; Lingard.

thousand men in our company.”\* This threat brought on the war. But the health of the Black Prince was rapidly declining, and he was reluctantly obliged to abandon the command of the army, and retire to England, where he died soon after his arrival, A. D. 1376. The old king, his father, did not long survive him. Several laws relating to the Bordeaux wine-trade were passed in this reign.†

The discontent of the lords and commons had offered a favourable opportunity to Charles V. to attempt to regain his lost dominions; and owing to the general apathy and discontent, he managed to retake all the conquered provinces, and even a part of Guienne; so that at the death of Edward III., little remained of the English possessions in France excepting Calais, Bayonne, and their good old town of Bordeaux.

\* “*Nous irons volontiers à nostre ayeul à Paris; mais ce sera le bacinet en la teste et 60,000 hommes en nostre compaignie.*” Froissard, ch. 248., p. 344.

† In 1342 Gascony wine was taxed four deniers, and Rhenish wine six deniers; merchants also were forbidden to put wines of different origin in the same cellar, upon pain of confiscation. In 1352 this evaluation was raised to six and eight deniers. In 1354 Edward III. forbade, under severe penalties, every Englishman to go to Guienne to buy wine; but, in 1370, this prohibition was modified, at the request of the Black Prince. In 1372, according to Froissard, an English fleet of 200 sail arrived at Bordeaux to purchase wines.

“During the long and prosperous reign of Edward III., Bordeaux had increased in magnitude and affluence. A spirit of independence was diffused throughout the country, personal slavery was becoming less general, and though some of the lords still gave proofs of their former tyranny, yet complaints were listened to and excesses repressed. Edward put an end to the depredations which Sir d’Albret committed in spite of the statutes of Henry II., upon the shipwrecked passengers who landed alive upon his coasts; the arbitrary impositions to which this lord had subjected all the traders who crossed the Adour were likewise suppressed; and the Viscount d’Ortez was no longer allowed to strip travellers on the road from Bordeaux to Bayonne.”\*

In the fourth century, the trade of Bordeaux was confined to the exportation of a few tuns of wine bartered in England for wool, leather, furs, tin, lead, and Holland cloth. Since that time little had been done to encourage this promising commercial industry; but Edward lessened the enormous duties †, and entirely suppressed those fines which had been hitherto laid upon every vessel which accident or foul weather

\* Roles Gascons, p. 104., Nos. 3, 4, 5.; Jouannet, p. 206.

† Considered *enormous* at that period, being eight sous two deniers *per dolium* or *futaille*, or about ten francs per tun, besides the *droit de prise*, by which, as already stated, the king had a right to two tuns in every cargo, — taken, one fore and one aft.



had caused to anchor in his ports ; he also enacted that Bordeaux should be open to commercial vessels during the time of truce.\* The city is likewise indebted to him for its two free fairs, and for the light-house at the mouth of the Gironde.† The son of the Black Prince, Richard II., surnamed *of Bordeaux*, because he was born at the château of Lormont opposite the town, succeeded Edward III. in 1377. Though he inherited none of the great qualities of his father and grandfather, he was so idolized by the Bordeaux people, that they refused at first to acknowledge the Duke of Lancaster, whom he had created Duke of Guienne in 1389. Their affection for Richard was carried to such an extent, that when the news of his death reached Bordeaux, a man whom they suspected of being implicated in his murder, was torn to pieces by the people.‡

The most remarkable event in this reign was the defensive league formed by the cities of Guienne among themselves in 1379. The province was at that time in a state of great perplexity. At the expiration of the truce of Bruges hostilities had recommenced, and the Duke of Alençon had seized on St. Macaire, and was menacing several other towns.§

\* Rymer (*Acta Diplomatica*), 1351 and 1358 ; Jouannet, p. 207.

† Baurein, *Variétés Bordelaises* ; Louvet, *Histoire de la Guienne*, ann. 1337, p. 66.

‡ Jouannet, p. 208.

§ *Ibid.*

They expected, but in vain, that Richard, imitating the chivalrous conduct of his father, would make a diversion in the north, in order to relieve his southern possessions. Moreover, they could no longer trust to the doubtful faith of their lords, whose banners were French or English, according as the dictates of private interest or the vicissitudes of fortune might determine. Hence the cities of Blaye, Bourg, Libourne, St. Emilion, Castillon, St. Macaire, Cadillac, and Rions, resolved to provide for their own safety by confederating under the patronage of Bordeaux, with the promise of mutual assistance. However, when the Duke of Lancaster, after the murder of Richard, usurped the throne, under the name of Henry IV., France was a prey to intestine divisions. Henry wished to profit by them; but by wavering between the parties of Orleans and Burgundy, and serving each in its turn, he at length offended both. They united against him; Guienne was attacked by the Count of Armagnac, Blaye was taken and retaken, and Bourg was besieged. But the confederate troops of Bordeaux and the assistance of an English fleet, obliged the count to raise the siege and depart from the province.\*

Henry V., taking advantage of the disturbed state of France, landed in Normandy, at the head of 30,000 men, besieged and took Harfleur, and a few

\* Jouannet, p. 208.; A. Ducourneau, p. 135.

days after, gained the memorable battle of Azincourt, in which the French army was four times more numerous than the English.\* That fatal day was followed by a truce of two years; at the expiration of which, Henry made his second invasion, and seized on the whole of Normandy. The chiefs of the hostile parties now seemed desirous of coming to a reconciliation, in order more effectually to oppose the common enemy. Accordingly, the dauphin and the duke of Burgundy appointed the bridge of Montreuil, as a place of rendezvous; but this bridge was as fatal to the duke of Burgundy as the Rue Barbette had been to the duke of Orleans: for he was assassinated there before the very face of the dauphin. Though the youth of the latter seemed to shield him from the reproach of complicity, yet the crime was laid to his charge by the opposite party. The son of the victim excited Paris and the whole country against him; and then was formed the unpatriotic league which dictated the treaty of Troyes, disinherited the son of Charles VI., and laid Paris and the whole of France at the feet of the English conqueror.†

As long as Henry lived, the dauphin, though often attempting the chance of war, was always unfortunate; nor were his efforts more successful during the judicious administration of the duke of Bedford,

\* Hume, *Henry V.*

† Jouannet, p. 209.

whom Henry V., in dying, had named regent of France. But, after the Maid of Orleans, inspired with the love of liberty and patriotism, had relieved that city by exciting enthusiasm among the troops, fortune, at length, decided in favour of Charles.\*

The English were obliged to retreat before the simultaneous march of four formidable armies, and lost, one after another, all their former conquests.† Guienne, however, still remained their own, even after Charles VII. had made his victorious entrance into Paris.‡ But when, after having overrun Normandy, the king sent his veterans to the south, his own moderation, the discipline of his chosen franc-archers, and the improvidence of his adversaries rendered the conquest of this province an easy undertaking.§ The English had thrown a few garrisons into the towns on the banks of the Dordogne; but, both the banks of the Garonne, and the interior of the country, had none but communal troops, and the vassals of a few interested lords, to defend them. ||

The city and castle of Blaye, besieged the first, offered a vigorous resistance; Bourg, Castillon, and Libourne, supported with energy the attacks of the enemy; Fronsac held out for ten days, and thrice re-

\* Jouannet. † A. Ducourneau, p. 140.; Lingard, &c.

‡ Jouannet, p. 210.

§ *Ibid.*

|| *Ibid.*; A. Ducourneau, p. 141.

pelled its assailants from the walls of its castle. But the other places were lukewarm\*; even Bordeaux found it necessary to capitulate, and agreed (June 12th) to surrender, if no succour arrived within eleven days. This delay was a mere formality: it was impossible for an army to arrive from England within the given period. Accordingly, after the heralds had thrice shouted from their lofty towers "*Secours de ceux d'Angleterre pour ceux de Bordeaux!*" without any English succour having answered the summons, the city gates were thrown open, and the keys delivered to Count de Dunois, the commander-in-chief; who, with three princes of royal blood, the Counts of Angoulême, Clermont, and Vendôme, made his triumphal entrance into Bordeaux; which, like all the other towns of Guienne, was to preserve the privileges it had enjoyed under the English government.†

But the moderation of the king of France ended with his victory. Charles, unmindful of his promise, tried to impose upon his new province a tax of troops and subsidies. The states refused; the king's officers insisted; the people loudly complained; and dissatisfaction prevailed throughout the country.‡

\* Jouannet, p. 210.

† A. Ducourneau, p. 142.; *Chronique Bordelaise*; Histoire de France, vol. vii.

‡ Jouannet, p. 211.; A. Ducourneau, p. 143.

Hence, in 1452, at the first news of a few English troops having landed in Medoc, under the command of the earl of Shrewsbury, better known by the name of Talbot, Bordeaux, without calculating the chances of success, opened its gates to the English; and the French soldiers, composing the garrison, were either taken prisoners by surprise, or driven from the town.\* The other places followed the example of the capital: seduced, doubtless, by the hope of regaining a position which they already regretted to have lost.†

Charles, obliged to conquer the province a second time, sent his generals to besiege the fort of Castillon. Talbot, with his son, flew to assist the place, and taking the enemy by surprise, routed them with his usual impetuosity, pursued them up to their trenches, and planted his banner on the very palisade of their camp. “*Then burst the most terrible tempest of culverins and ribaudequins that ever was heard.*”‡ “The English advanced with great courage, and though five or six hundred of them had been swept away by the artillery, they persisted, for a whole hour, in this desperate assault. At length Talbot, then eighty years of age, fell wounded by a ball; his

\* *Chronique*; Jean Chartier; J. Duclerc; A. Ducourneau, p. 143.

† Jouannet, p. 211.

‡ *Chronique Bordelaise.*

two sons, with Lord Hull and thirty other English knights and barons, resolved to save their old chief or die by his side. They all perished. Such was the end of this famous and renowned English chief, who, for forty years, passed for one of the most formidable scourges of France."\* The castles of Cadillac and Blanquefort were defended by the English for some time with courage and energy, but, overpowered by numbers, they were at last obliged to surrender.

Bordeaux tried once more to capitulate; but Charles, indignant, dictated the conditions. The city lost its privileges, was fined a hundred thousand gold crowns, and twenty lords of the province were sent into exile. The English were permitted to dispose of their property, but they were subjected to measures of precaution, humiliating for them, and disastrous for the commerce of the country."† Charles afterwards reduced the fine to 30,000 crowns, and restored most of the privileges to the city; but to ensure its future obedience, he constructed the forts Tropeyte and Far‡, and ever after

\* *Chronique Bordelaise*; A. Ducourneau, p. 143.

† Jouannet, p. 211.—No English ship was to be allowed to proceed up the river without procuring a safe-conduct; she was then to go and be disarmed at Blaye. No Englishman was to walk in town before five in the morning, or after eight in the evening; and if he went into the country to buy wine, he was to be accompanied by guards.—*Ibid.*

‡ Since called *Trompette* and *Hâ*. The former is entirely

kept a watchful eye over his brave but rebellious province of Guienne.\*

The union of Guienne with France dates from the 19th of October, 1453: from that period the particular history of the province being confounded with the general history of the whole country, it only remains to notice the most striking events recorded in the annals of the town.

Not only the neighbouring castles, but the town itself had been much dilapidated during these long wars between France and England. "The English left little on the Continent but ruins. That serious and politic people, during this long conquest, founded scarcely anything."† Louis XI., therefore, on succeeding to the throne, endeavoured by judicious measures to restore prosperity to the town. He instituted a parliament, respected the privileges of the people, and by his tolerance induced the English to continue their trade with Guienne (1462).‡ Such were some of the means employed by Louis XI. to strengthen his own power and annihilate that of his great barons.§

demolished: its site is now a *promenade* called *Les Quinconces*. One tower of the latter still exists, and forms a part of the new prison.

\* Jouannet; A. Ducourneau; Ordonn. 14. 270.; J. Chartier; J. Duclerc; Berri.

† Michelet, vol. v.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. vi.

§ A. Ducourneau, p. 152.



Till 1520, the history of Bordeaux presents little worthy of notice excepting the assurance of a gradual and general improvement.\* “Thanks to the enlightened protection of Louis XII., agriculture was progressing, and the fertile province of Guienne produced, in 1516, a third more than formerly.”†

The religious reform preached by Luther in Germany, and by Calvin in France, was now received with enthusiasm by the people of a province that had anticipated those reformers by three centuries, and who had only been reduced to Catholicism by dint of physical torture and the frequent use of the rack, the stake, and the scaffold.‡ But the people were beginning to understand that religious liberty was intimately connected with political and social freedom. Calvin visited Guienne (1531), awakened the zeal of the preachers, and developed the seeds of reformation.§

The spirit of opposition soon burst forth. A partial insurrection on account of the taxes (*gabelle*) took place in 1539, and was soon followed by a general rebellion. The peasants killed the collectors, and forced Bordeaux to take part in the revolt. The governor of the citadel (Château Trompette) was

\* A. Ducourneau.

† Duclos, t. i. p. 343.; *Registres du Parlement de Bordeaux; Chronique*; Bouchet; *Ann. d'Aquitaine*.

‡ A. Ducourneau, p. 159.

§ *Ibid.*; Bernadau; Don Devienne, &c.

seized and put to the sword. But Montmorenci being sent with an army, marched against the town, refused to listen to any terms, however submissive, cannonaded the walls, and having entered through the breach, though the gates had been opened to receive him (1548), executed a great number of the inhabitants, deprived Bordeaux of its privileges, proscribed its parliament, and levied enormous contributions.\* In the following year, Henry II. listened to the complaints of his suffering subjects, remitted a great part of the fine required, and restored the parliament.†

In spite of edicts, persecution, and torture, the Protestants were daily increasing in Bordeaux; in 1560 their number amounted to 7000. Confiding in their present strength, they occasionally attempted to oppose their persecutors, and even went so far as to petition the king in favour of religious liberty. "The ministers preached publicly that the kings could have no power but what they derived from the people."‡

Charles IX. repaired to Bordeaux in 1565, and held a *lit de justice*, with a view to calm these religious dissensions. But as soon as he departed, the *religionaires* flew to arms, and seized on Blaye; and though a treaty, extremely favourable to the Pro-

\* Ducourneau.

† *Ibid.*, p. 160.

‡ Comment. de Blaise Montluc.

testants, was concluded with their chiefs in 1570, their commander of Blaye refused to give up his fortress, under the pretence that the edict of pacification had not been faithfully observed. Almost every species of violence and physical torture, the favourite arguments of Rome, had now been tried, but with little success, to arrest the invading spirit of reform. The clergy summoned the genius of Nero and Caligula, as their last resource; and Protestantism was to be annihilated by a general massacre.

The horrors of St. Bartholomew were repeated at Bordeaux on the 3d of October, 1572. "Murder spread throughout Guienne, like a train of gunpowder." The monks and all the religious brotherhoods were on the alert; they shut the city gates, marked the houses of the Protestants, rung the alarm-bell, and slaughtered all who differed from them in opinion, sparing neither age, sex, nor condition.\*

During the civil war that ensued, the places about Bordeaux, such as Blanquefort, Podensac, and other castles, were taken and retaken several times by the contending parties. These isolated facts, however, which might be multiplied *ad infinitum*, offer too little interest at the present day to deserve further mention. It is sufficient to state that these troubles lasted

\* A. Ducourneau, p. 170.; Histoire de France, &c.

without intermission till the 14th of May, 1576, the date of the pacification. \*

Bordeaux, after having been for so many years the victim of intestine dissensions, would now have enjoyed, for a short time, the fruits of comparative tranquillity, had not a new calamity — the plague — afflicted and decimated its unfortunate inhabitants (1585).† Hardly had this horrible distemper somewhat abated, owing to the benevolent and truly apostolic efforts of Cardinal de Sourdis when the country was again visited by the horrors of war. In 1594 the famous Catholic League excited much disturbance in Guienne; and Blaye was unsuccessfully attacked by the Leaguers. These troubles were momentarily appeased by the worldly, but judicious conduct of Henry IV., who, after turning Catholic, saying, “Paris is well worth a mass,” was the better able to protect the adherents of his former faith. His edict of Nantes (1598) recognised Calvinism no longer as a dissenting sect, but as a state, with its laws, places, armies, subsidies, and assemblies; and though it was regarded as sacrilegious by the Catholic clergy, and as illegal by the parliaments, yet a spirit of indulgence had begun to prevail, and people sighed for tranquillity and order.

\* A. Ducourneau; Bernadau, &c.

† Bernadau.

The wisdom of Henry's administration was particularly exemplified by the notable improvement of agricultural industry in Guienne, and by the commercial prosperity of Bordeaux (1604).

Louis XIII., who succeeded Henry, made a solemn entry into Bordeaux, where he espoused the Infanta of Spain (1615). He endeavoured several times to accommodate the sectarian spirit of the population of Guienne; but, on every occasion, he had no sooner departed, than the whole country raised the standard of revolt. These sad dissensions continued, with more or less fury, till the fall of La Rochelle (1629).

As usual, no sooner had religious commotion subsided than an impost on wine caused a general revolt throughout the South, and especially in Bordeaux. This revolt was crushed with so much rigour by the Duke d'Epemon, that every body complained of the sanguinary despotism of the minister, Cardinal Richelieu, and his remorseless agents (1641). But the "monstrous sums of deniers levied" by Richelieu and Mazarin were so oppressive to the Bordelais that they rebelled on several occasions against their governor, d'Epemon. Their discontent was fomented by the Prince and Princess de Condé, who, having quarrelled with Mazarin, had escaped to Bordeaux, where they had been received with enthusiasm (1651). After various skirmishes with the royal forces, Condé was at length forced to retreat, and the

city, being in a terrible state of anarchy, found it impossible long to withstand the blockade that was formed by the king's army. They agreed to a truce; and an amnesty was granted to Bordeaux (1653).\*

This revolt had proved that the political power of the great nobility was on the wane, and that the time for the citizens to assert their rights had not yet come. "The nobles crowded about the throne, as if proud of the splendour of their conqueror. The citizens, disunited and timid, were beginning to enjoy comforts to which they had hitherto been strangers, but could not yet pretend to take any part in the government of the state. Lastly, the progress of civilization, literature, and the arts, with peace and prosperity, embellished the triumph of pure monarchy, inspired the king with a presumptuous confidence, and the people with complaisance mingled with admiration." (1661.)†

"The great and expensive wars which France had to maintain, from 1665 to 1678, had, in spite of the careful administration of Colbert, so impoverished the treasury, that new taxes at length were his only resource. A rebellion immediately burst forth in Guienne: the peasants massacred the collectors of the taxes, pillaged the castles, and hung their lords. As Bordeaux had greatly participated in this insur-

\* A. Ducourneau, p. 180—190.

† Guizot, *Hist. de la Revol. d'Angleterre*, t. i.

rection, and its parliament had shown some indulgence towards the offenders, the latter was transferred to Condom.

“ The immutable idea of Louis XIV. had ever been to bring back the Dissenters to the unity of the Roman Church ; and to effect this ‘ worthy work,’ he resolved to revoke the edict of Nantes. He was urged towards this deplorable measure by the Jesuits, by his ambitious ministers, and by his mistress, Madame de Maintenon. The Reformers endeavoured to fly ; but emigration was forbidden, upon pain of being sent to the galleys. Meetings took place in Bordeaux, and throughout the province ; and persecution then assumed a bloody character. The Calvinists addressed a last petition to the king, to be allowed to serve God according to their consciences, or to seek an asylum in a foreign land. The only answer sent was a regiment of dragoons, in 1684.

“ Then every kind of horrible violence was perpetrated : the defenceless population was given up to the brutal appetites of the savage soldiers ; men were put to the torture ; women ravished ; children carried away ; and estates devastated : whoever refused the sacraments, sheltered the ministers, or wanted to leave the kingdom, were sent to the galleys ; and pain of death was pronounced against the ministers and every person who professed any other religion than that of Rome. They even dragged them to the

altar, and forced them, before the face of the executioner, to commit sacrilege.”\*

The Protestants fled: the police hunted and tracked them in vain; in vain they demanded certificates of confession of every traveller; and in vain was the pain of death pronounced against whoever favoured emigration. Thousands of families left Bordeaux, Agen, and Perigord, to take refuge in foreign lands: nobles, merchants, and artizans. This active, laborious, and enlightened population carried elsewhere their riches, their swords, their talents, the secrets of their industry, and preserved an implacable hatred against their exterminating tyrant.†

In 1707, a tax imposed by the minister Chamillard, upon births, marriages, and deaths, excited many riots in this province; and the peasants forced the nobles to put themselves at their head.

The Jesuits, who had long been hostile to the Jansenists, now received permission from the old king to persecute their adversaries, who were as severely treated as the Dissenters had been. In Bordeaux and throughout the province, inquisition, seduction, menaces, and torments, were actively employed for the *salvation of Catholicism*.‡ This shameful persecution was one of the last acts of the cruel and des-

\* A. Ducourneau, p. 191—193.

† *Ibid.*, p. 94.

‡ E. Quinet, *Ultramontanism*; Michelet, *Priests, Women, and Families*; A. Ducourneau, p. 195.



potical Louis XIV. He died on the 1st of September, 1715.

The annals of Bordeaux offer but few interesting facts during the reign of Louis XV. We learn that Law's financial scheme caused the ruin of innumerable Bordeaux families in 1720; and that serious riots were occasioned in 1745 by the high price of corn, of which certain speculators had made a shameful monopoly. The year 1764 witnessed the fall of the Jesuits, — that order so powerful as to seem indestructible. They had, at that time, four convents in Bordeaux, and possessed great wealth in ecclesiastical benefices and private estates, which they owed to pious donations. "The pretext of their punishment," says Voltaire, "was the pretended danger of their bad books, which are read by nobody; the cause was their long abuse of credit."

The last years of this reign were remarkable for riots in different parts of France, and especially in Bordeaux. The monopoly of corn had again been carried to excess, and the people were starving; but the generosity of a few rich merchants, who purchased corn, and retailed it to the people, at a losing price, was greatly instrumental in restoring order. (1773.)\*

Louis XVI., hoping to strengthen social order, and give satisfaction to public opinion, by the revival

\* A. Ducourneau, p. 196, 197, 198.

The cunning and trickery of the minister Calonne next imposed upon the king and the country for about three years more. This was the extreme term of the calm which preceded the revolutionary crisis, when ideas were realized in facts.

All minds were prepared in Guienne for the approaching revolution. The resistance of the parliaments to the measures of the minister in 1787, and the following year, was applauded with enthusiasm; and when the parliament of Bordeaux was suspended and exiled to Libourne for its obstinate opposition to the royal will, the citizens, both in town and country, testified their sympathy by a general mourning.

The states-general assembled in 1789, and the third state, which had hitherto been *nothing*, now began to be *everything*. The patriotic courage of the assembly, its perils, and the plots of the court, brought about the 14th of July, when the people first displayed their sovereignty under the cannon of the Bastille. The news of that important achievement was joyfully received in Bordeaux and throughout Guienne. In imitation of Paris, the people formed themselves everywhere into national guards; municipalities were elected, and the greater part of the members of the parliament yielding to the general enthusiasm, asked to be inscribed in the companies of civic militia, and did duty with the rest of the population. As guns were wanting to complete the

arming of the militia, they rushed in crowds to the fortress of the Château Trompette, which contained a dépôt of ammunition. The governor, influenced either by fear or patriotism, avoided a repetition of the 14th of July, by giving a kind reception to his assailants, and delivering up the keys of the arsenal to the council of the ninety communal electors.

Bordeaux, that had hitherto acted spontaneously and independently of Paris, has from the year 1789 almost always followed the impulse of the capital. Till the 31st of May, 1793, it implicitly obeyed all the orders emanating from that political centre; but at that period the Girondin party, or deputation of the Gironde, composed of Vergniaud, Guade, Gensonné, and other celebrated orators, with Grange-neuve, Ducos, and Fonfrède, endeavoured to contend against the Jacobin party and those of the convention known by the name of Montagnards. The former, partisans of moderation and advocates of a middle-class system of government, were entirely vanquished by the latter, who boldly aimed at absolute equality and the domination of the many. Twenty-two at first, and afterwards seventy-three of the moderate Girondins, were proscribed by the Jacobins. Some managed to escape, and others were taken, imprisoned, and afterwards beheaded. Bordeaux then entered into a kind of league, formed by some of the

departments against the Convention ; this was termed *Fédération*.

This attempt at emancipation was not successful. The Convention despatched its proconsuls Tallien, Isabeau, and Beaudot, to execute its decree of outlawry against all those who had adhered to the league, and to reduce the city by force or famine. The proconsuls retired to La Réole to form their camp, and collected at great expense a vast quantity of ammunition. At the news of these warlike preparations, twenty thousand Bordeaux citizens marched forth from the city, without arms, and presented themselves before the hostile camp, singing the *Marseillaise*. "These men," said Brune, the republican general, "are not enemies to the republic," and he resigned his command.

Famine added its horrors to those of civil war ; the deputies of the *Montagne* intercepted the provisions in the rivers Garonne and Dordogne, and Bordeaux for twenty months was reduced to the extremity of starvation. In the mean time Tallien, invested with supreme authority, had arrived from Paris, and entered Bordeaux at the head of his revolutionary army. The forces of the department were disarmed and disbanded, and a military commission, composed of the vilest portion of the populace, and created under the presidency of a schoolmaster named Lacombe, a coarse, bloodthirsty fellow, was

charged to carry the decree of outlawry into immediate execution. Terror became the order of the day. The prisons were filled with the richest merchants, ransomed and imprisoned according to the caprice and cupidity of the most worthless of their fellow-citizens; the mayor and numbers of the most respectable inhabitants perished on the scaffold, permanently established on the Place Dauphine\*; the workshops were shut, and amid the frightened populace, brigands in red caps celebrated the apotheosis of the sanguinary Marat.

Such was the miserable condition of Bordeaux when the 9th *Thermidor* of the second year of the republic (August, 1794), witnessed the downfall of these horrible fanatics. Robespierre in Paris, and Lacombe in Bordeaux, were destined to perish on those very scaffolds to which they had condemned so many hundreds of their fellow-creatures.

The revolution of Thermidor, republican in its origin, soon assumed a royalist colour in the south; and for several months bands of armed men overran the province of Guienne, burning and slaughtering under the plea of avenging the excesses of the reign of terror. The revolution of the 18th Brumaire subjected France for fourteen years to the will of her military commander. Napoleon, following in this

\* This square was called during the Reign of Terror, *Place Nationale*.

the policy of several of his predecessors, visited Bordeaux in 1808, hoping to kindle the enthusiasm of the population ; but his ruinous wars, and especially his continental blockade, rendered his domination, however glorious for France, insupportable to the department of Guienne, which existed only by its commerce. When, therefore, the van of the English army commanded by Marshal Beresford, presented itself on the 12th of March, 1814, before the gates of Bordeaux, it found the inhabitants already well-disposed to accept any kind of change that was likely to restore tranquillity. Besides being tired of the imperial government, the minds of the Bordeaux people were influenced by another sentiment ; a member of that illustrious family that had governed France for so many centuries, the Duke of Angoulême, had now returned after their twenty-five years' exile, promising, in the name of the king, sincere union, an oblivion of the past, with peace and liberty. "I delight in repeating to you," said this prince in his proclamations, "*that there shall be no more conscription, no odious taxes ; that the liberty of worship shall be maintained ; that commerce and industry shall be encouraged, and that national domain property shall be inviolable.*"

These engagements so solemnly contracted in the name of the king, and in presence of the sovereigns and armies of all Europe assembled on the French

territory, were hailed by the people with affection and enthusiasm ; Louis XVIII. was proclaimed, and Bordeaux was surnamed the city of the 12th of March, the faithful city.

But the restoration of the Bourbons was suddenly interrupted by the revolution of the 20th of March, 1815. As soon as the startling news arrived that Napoleon had escaped from Elba and landed in France, the Duke of Angoulême was invested with the command of the provinces situated on the left of the Loire. He established his head-quarters at Toulouse, leaving the duchess at Bordeaux, hoping thus to preserve that important city, and in case of need, to be able to rally there the Spanish army. Amid the rejoicings intended to celebrate the anniversary of the 12th of March, 1814, the city was suddenly informed of the astonishing success of the great emperor, and the festival was immediately replaced by preparations for war.

The insurrection spread from town to town with incredible rapidity. In a few days Napoleon had fixed his victorious eagles in the Tuileries ; the tri-coloured flag was floating from the towers of Angoulême ; and general Clausel was advancing, by forced marches, towards the capital of Guienne. The national guards of the town, to prove their loyalty towards the duchess, sallied forth to oppose the imperial troops. But all opposition was useless : they

were obliged to retreat; and Clausel, being reinforced by the garrison of Blaye,—that had hoisted the tri-coloured flag, appeared, on the 1st of April, at the head of his troops, on the right bank of the Garonne, opposite Bordeaux.

The national guards resolved to hold out to the last; but they could not prevail on the troops of the line to join them. The latter had not seen without emotion their old victorious banner displayed on the opposite bank of the river; and all the barracks were unanimous in the cause of their emperor. The superior officers hastened to the princess, and conjured her to leave the town; because they could no longer answer for her safety. The princess, whose fortitude was conspicuous in this emergency, resolved to judge, with her own eyes, of the disposition of the soldiers, and to bring them over to her side, if possible. She therefore visited the several barracks, but it was all in vain: no answer was returned to her energetic appeal; and the same evening she departed for Panillac, where she was received on board an English sloop, the *Wanderer*.\*

After the battle of Waterloo, and the second restoration of Louis XVIII., Bordeaux was honoured, for a month, with the presence of the duke and

\* Ducourneau, *La Guienne Historique et Monumentale*, p. 208.



duchess of Angoulême, who received a brilliant and enthusiastic reception. But the re-establishment of the *droits réunis*, under the title of indirect contributions, and a few other blunders of the restoration, gradually cooled the enthusiasm of the Bordeaux people; and, though the murder of the duke de Berry, the birth of his son, the duke of Bordeaux, and the presence of the duchess of Angoulême during the war in Spain in 1823, roused ancient sympathy for a moment, yet the sentiment was neither electric, as before, nor general.

The commerce of the town, which had suffered much during the latter years of the empire, was greatly impoverished towards the end of the restoration; accordingly, the revolution of 1830 did not meet with much opposition in the city of the 12th of March; and, generally speaking, the inhabitants of Bordeaux were not unfavourably inclined towards the new dynasty which that revolution has placed upon the throne of France!

The city is indebted to the restoration for many improvements. Its noble bridge, projected by the emperor Napoleon, its magnificent hospital, its beautiful promenades, and several useful establishments, date from the same period.

The present reign has also been highly beneficial to the town. The grand Palais de Justice, the new

prison, the gas-establishment \*, a better organised system of police, and various other improvements, are proofs of the wisdom of the present administration, and the fruits of peace.

During the summer of 1839, Bordeaux was enlivened by the presence of the late lamented duke of Orleans and his duchess, who spent several weeks in visiting the environs. It is not foreign to the principal subject of the present volume to mention that they made an excursion into the claret country, where they were munificently received and entertained by M. P. F. Guestier, peer of France, at his château de Beychevelle.

Last year, 1845, the town was again honoured with a visit from a part of the royal family. The duke and duchess of Nemours, with the duke of Aumale, made their entrance into Bordeaux, amid the roar of cannon, and the joyful acclamations of thousands of spectators. For several weeks the town and its vicinity presented a most animated appearance. All the roads leading to the village of Saint Médard en Jalle, where a camp had been formed, were daily crowded with every variety of conveyance, actively employed in transporting the merry-making population to the scene of military evolutions.

\* A branch of the Imperial and Continental London Gas Company. Its director, Mr. A. G. Da Costa, an English engineer, politely allows strangers to visit the works.

Reviews, levees, balls, and various other entertainments, which lasted several weeks, diffused a general feeling of happiness among the people; and the extreme urbanity and benevolence of the royal guests, which were eminently conspicuous on more than one melancholy occasion, will cause the visit of the princes to be long gratefully remembered by the loyal people of Guienne.

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## ANTIQUITIES, ETC.

## BEFORE THE TIME OF THE ROMANS.

THE department of the Gironde contains but few of those enormous stone blocks or Gaulish *dolmens* which are frequently found in other parts of France, especially in Brittany and the Perigord. There are only three: one at Pujols, another at Saint Sulpice-de-Falerens, both in the neighbourhood of Libourne; and a third at Saint Ciers-de-Canesse, in the vicinity of Blaye. The latter *dolmen* consists of one enormous block, about ten feet square, and one foot thick, supported by three others nearly seven feet in height. That at Pujols, called by the peasants Peyre-Lebade, or raised stone, is of similar construction.

The monument at Saint-Sulpice, is a solitary rock, about eighteen feet high, planted east and west, on the side of the road leading to Libourne.

The stone weapons found in the department are hatchets and heads of arrows. The latter are of flint, not polished, but cut with much care. The hatchets are either of flint or black marble, cut into a wedge form, carefully polished, and have a sharp edge. Many of these weapons have been found in the neighbourhood of Bordeaux; and, as the material is foreign to the country, it is supposed that the Bituriges-Vivisci must have had some intercourse with distant nations.

The *tumulus*, or mound of earth, several specimens of which still exist in the province, is another monument attributed to its primitive inhabitants. Some stand alone; others are in groups, and surrounded with trenches. These mounds are termed by the inhabitants *mottes*, *pujols*, and *pujolets*. In the last century, several Gallo-Roman urns and four hundred gold medals, bearing the effigy of Constantius-Chlorus, were discovered in a *tumulus* of this kind at Saint Morillon.

Antique medals, anterior to the Romans, are extremely rare. A few, however, have been discovered near the sea side, between Soulac and Verdon, but mixed with Roman pieces and others, both of the middle ages and of modern times: a proof, perhaps,

of that shore having been fatal to mariners in every age.

#### THE GALLO-ROMAN PERIOD.

The department was formerly traversed by several Roman roads: one went from Bordeaux to Agen; another from Bordeaux to Saintes; two others led from Dax to Bordeaux; and, lastly, there was one from Bordeaux to Périgueux. There remain, here and there, a few faint traces of some of these roads, and of others unmentioned in the Theodosian Table.

At different places on these roads, several Roman antiquities have been discovered. Thus, in 1805, two white marble tombs were found in a field near St. Médard d'Eyran, on the road to Bazas.\* They are about six feet in length: one represents Diana and Endymion, the other Ariadne and Bacchus; the heads of the principal figures are unfinished, and the tombs void of inscriptions. At Hure, a little hamlet on the road to Agen, built of, and upon, Roman ruins, many mosaics of a great variety of colours, besides medals and marbles, have often come to light. A great quantity of medals, bricks, tiles, mosaic pavement, urns, pottery, wedges, and a few little statues, have also been discovered at one or other of

\* Mr. Lacour of Bordeaux has published some fine engravings of these tombs.

the following places, Bazas, Langon, Castres, La Croix de Hins, La Mothe, La Réole, St. Macaire, Panillac, St. Julien de Reignac, Bourg, St. Emilion, Pessac, Eynesse, Ruch, and St. Aubin.

Only Bordeaux and Bazas could have deserved the title of Roman cities: Langon, Bourg, Panillac, and Blaye, seem to have been either villas or military stations.

Of the religious monuments left by the Romans in France, it is supposed that the *Piliers de Tutelle*, an edifice dedicated to the tutelar deity of Burdigala, or Bordeaux, was one of the most magnificent. The ruins of these pillars were finally demolished by the order of Louis XIV. in 1677. Inscriptions discovered at different periods, lead us to suppose that other temples may also have been built here by the Romans.

The only Roman monument now existing, is a portion of an arena vulgarly called *Palais Gallien*. This arena, of an elliptic form, about eighty yards long and sixty yards wide, was surrounded by six enclosures. As late as 1772, its dimensions could still be measured; but now there is nothing left but a part of the second inclosure, and a fine ruin of the western entrance; the more interesting as it permits us to judge of the exterior decoration, the mode of construction\*, and the number of the enclosures.

\* Alternate layers of bricks or tiles and small squared stones.

The height of the present ruin is about sixty-five feet. Medals of Gallienus, found among the ruins, justify tradition in ascribing this monument to the reign of that emperor.

Remnants of two aqueducts which supplied the town with water, besides several interesting statues, bas-reliefs, capitals, and inscriptions, may be seen in the Bordeaux museum of antiquities.

#### PERIOD OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

The most ancient religious monuments erected in the department since the invasions of the barbarians, seem to date from the tenth and eleventh centuries. All the churches built by the Christians of the Roman empire, were either destroyed before that time, or else have been so modified by succeeding ages, that they present an assemblage of different styles; the Roman plein-cintre, or semicircular arch, being mixed with the ogive.

The subterraneous church of *St. Emilion* is the only one that can be supposed to be of an anterior date. It reminds us of those early ages of Christianity when, far from raising stately edifices or aspiring to political domination, the persecuted faithful, to shun

The exterior of this edifice was composed of two orders, the lower part being built in porticoes of the Tuscan, and the upper in arcades of the Doric order.

the baneful glance of tyranny, concealed their altars and their worship in the bowels of the earth.

This church is entered by a dark passage, bordered by Christian tombs. The alley, the tombs, the church itself, and all its details, are cut in the rock and hewn out of one stone. It is thirty-five yards in length, fifteen in width, and seventeen in height ; being composed of a nave and two aisles, with a parabolic arched roof, resting upon eight enormous pillars, clumsily squared and devoid of ornament, except a few faint traces of checkered moulding near the roof. The entrance, primitively an uncouth opening in the rock, was in the twelfth or thirteenth century changed into an arcade composed of several ogive arches with figures between them, and displaying over the door a bas-relief representing the last judgment. Other sculptures of greater antiquity, and emblematical of the resurrection, exist within the church ; and an inscription upon one of the pillars, and a few coins of king Pepin found in the interior of the edifice, seem to justify tradition in dating its construction from the sixth century. In every case, it is one of the most curious monuments in France.

The church of *St. Seurin*, at Bordeaux, is also supposed to have been founded in the earlier ages of Christianity. The present edifice has swallowed up two small ones of greater antiquity, a simple oratory and a small church dedicated to St. Stephen. It was in



this oratory that St. Seurin, one of the first bishops of Bordeaux, is said to have been buried, as well as several other saintly persons of less note. This edifice, built in the country beyond the walls, having been ransacked, devastated, and restored at various periods, may furnish matter for the study of the different ages of Roman and Gothic architecture. Its western porch, with its three arcades, seems to belong to the tenth century; its steeple and a kind of belfry are evidently the work of the eleventh. In 1829 the *façade* of the western door was entirely reconstructed.

Within the church are several curious bas-reliefs; one represents a pope (supposed to be Clement V.) saying mass, another the legend of St. Seurin. There is also a handsome marble throne on one side of the chancel.

The church of *Sainte-Croix*, situated in the southern extremity of the town, was, according to the historian Venuti, founded in the fifth century; but others date it from 650, in the reign of Clovis II. It is, however, certain that an Abbé Momol was buried there in 653, that the church was spoiled by the Saracens in 729, restored by Charlemagne in 778, laid waste by the Normans in 848, and rebuilt by William-the-Good in 902. The exterior portico seems to be the most ancient part of the present edifice, and to belong to the tenth century. Under the arcades of the

entrance are various bas-reliefs, which are considered by some as mystical emblems, by others as pagan obscenities.

Several other churches in the department still offer interesting traces of Roman architecture previous to the twelfth century, when the semicircular arch was replaced by the ogive. Among them, may be quoted St. Pierre de Loupiac-de-Cadillac, St. Macaire, St. Denis-de-Piles, the church of Bayon, and St. Vivien in Medoc.

The *Cathedral of Bordeaux*, founded in the fourth century, laid in ruins by the barbarians, restored by Charlemagne, and devastated afterwards by the Normans, was rebuilt in the tenth and eleventh centuries, and consecrated by Pope Urban II. in 1096. Its plan is the Latin cross, without side-aisles; but from the cross-aisle the head of the cross is surrounded by an alley bordered on one side by thirteen arcades, and on the other by chapels, five of which correspond symmetrically with the arcades of the sanctuary. The building, from east to west, is about 430 feet in length; the nave is 56 feet wide, the length of the cross-aisle is 155 feet, and the height of the two spires is about 265 feet from the ground.

In spite of a want of unity among the different parts of a church so often ruined and repaired, the astonishing boldness of its grand nave, the elegance of its spires and outward ornaments, together with

the airy style of all the rest, have caused *St. André* of Bordeaux to hold a distinguished rank among the beautiful cathedrals of France. Its steeple and belfrey, about thirty yards from the building, was founded in 1440 by Pierre Berland, archbishop of Bordeaux; the upper part is destroyed, but what remains is an elegant specimen of the Gothic of that period.

The church of *St. Michel* vies in elegance with *St. André*, and has the advantage of being more regular. It was built in the twelfth century, and its form is the Latin cross with side aisles. Its beautiful round point, its exterior balustrades with their little pyramidal spires and ogives, the curious ornaments of the southern porch, the interior of the three naves with all their details, serve to remind one of the constructions of the thirteenth century. The grand chapel of *St. Joseph* is a very remarkable feature in this edifice, being a precious work of the *renaissance*. Like the cathedral, *St. Michel* has its steeple about thirty yards distant; it was erected in the fifteenth century, and its height was more than 300 feet before its upper part was blown down by a hurricane on the 8th of September, 1768.\* The sandy soil on which it is constructed, has the peculiar property of preserving dead bodies, several of which have been

\* The present tower is surmounted by a double telegraph, to correspond with Paris and Bayonne.

placed in a vault in the interior of this tower. Strangers are allowed to visit these natural mummies, whose history is related to them by the torch-bearer who accompanies them. Strong in his belief of tradition, he will tell you that such a one is more than 800 years old, and will descant upon the perfect symmetry of his form; he will also point out to you the distorted figures of children who are supposed to have been buried alive, and others, equally distorted, who were poisoned by mushrooms; not forgetting a gigantic form who died under a heavy load, and another who was killed in a duel. He will then terminate his sepulchral narration by intimating to you the startling fact that you are standing upon an accumulation of fifteen feet of human bones!

The department possesses also two other monuments of a similar style of architecture; the cathedral of Bazas, founded in the fourth century, destroyed in 853 and enlarged in 1233, and the church called the Collegiate d' Uzest, remarkable principally for containing the ashes of its founder, Pope Clement V.

#### CASTLES.

The greater part of the old castles erected in the vicinity of Bordeaux, were built on the banks of rivers or in the middle of marshes. The castles of

Castillon, in Medoc, of Blaye, and Tau, were on the Gironde; those of Langoiran, Rions, Violes, St. Macaire, Langon, Castes, and La Réole, were on the Garonne; the castles of Bourg, Cubzac, Vayres, Fronsac, and Castillon, rose on the banks of the Dordogne: in the midst of the marshes were built the castles of Blanquefort, Lesparre, St. Médard, and St. Magne; whilst others, and they were probably the most ancient, stood on natural or artificial elevations. Some of these, or at least their ruins, still exist, and deserve to be mentioned.

The *Château de Blanquefort* seems to have been built in the twelfth century, but the exact date of its foundation is unknown. The plan of the castle is a long rectangle, flanked with large towers at the angles, and having a tower of a smaller diameter with winding stairs in the middle, near the southern side. The building stood alone in the middle of a large court of rather an elliptic form, surrounded by a wall three or four yards in thickness, and defended by nine towers, two of which are of vast size. A gate on the eastern side led to the entrance to the court-yard, and two towers protected this entrance and the bridge which led to it. The surrounding ditch was eighteen feet wide. The north-east tower and its walls have been rased to the ground, but enough still remains of the others to form an idea of the ancient castle, and of the power of its feudal

master. The lords of Blanquefort played a grand part in the province; their jurisdiction extended over ten parishes, and their friendship and alliance were sought by the kings of England and France. They had their men-at-arms and their little army; and they waged war successively with the count of Fronsac and the lord of Lesparre. But they experienced also the vicissitudes of warfare so common in the middle ages; their domain was several times contested, conquered, restored, and retaken. At length it fell into the hands of Edward II., king of England, who bestowed it upon a nephew of the famous Bertrand de Gout, in the year 1308. Within one of the towers on the north side is a chapel, in which may be seen a disfigured head, strongly resembling those of the Edwards which we see on the coins of that period; a leopard, sculptured in relief on the wall, strengthens this conjecture. This castle, confiscated by Charles VII. in 1453, restored to its proprietor in 1469, was in 1562 taken by the *religionnaires*, who were shortly after driven out of it by the Bordeaux militia. Its complete ruin and total abandonment date from the reign of Louis XIII.

The *Château de Budos* is somewhat less ancient than that of Blanquefort, to which it bears a considerable resemblance; without, however, equalling it either in strength or architecture. Nevertheless, its wide ditches enabled it to withstand an assault

and sustain a siege. The preparations made by the English and the Bordeaux people to reduce it, in 1421, are a proof of the resistance they expected. Those troops marched against this place followed by two cannons, and a bomb-ketch to throw balls weighing 700 pounds. Budos capitulated. It was agreed that the lord of the place, who was on the side of the king of France, *should not become English*, but remain neuter.

The *Château de Villandraut* is a rectangle of about seventy-six yards long and seventy-two wide, surrounded by a ditch twenty yards wide and seven in depth. This castle was, for some time, the abode of Clement V., several of whose bulls are dated from Villandraut. The north-east tower and a few ruined arches, are all that remains of this stronghold, where Bertrand de Gout distributed the favours and treasures of the church. In 1593, this place, which had been seized upon by the Leaguers, was besieged and taken by the Marshal de Matignon; but it surrendered only after it had vigorously repulsed two assaults, and when the cannon had at last opened so large a breach that it was impossible for the besieged to defend it any longer.

Several other ruined castles of similar construction, and of the same period, are still extant: such are the *Château de Fargues*, which, in 1306, belonged to a nephew of Clement V; the quadrilateral *castelet*,

flanked with towers, now deserted, but almost entire, in the little island near St. Médard; the imposing ruins of the *Château de Benanges*; the Château of Breuil, and that of Lesparre, the picturesque ruins of Langoiran, La Sauve, and La Trave, and the lately demolished Norman castle of Landiras.

The department still possesses the ruins of one Norman castle, called the Château d'Ornon, situated near Gradignan, in the neighbourhood of Bordeaux. It is a very remarkable example of the use of the *tumulus* in military constructions during the feudal period, and was probably built by some English lord, when this province was first occupied by his countrymen. However this may be, it is certain that this castle was, as early as 1173, possessed by William Furt, in whose family it remained till 1321; and that it belonged in 1403 to Henry Bowet, afterwards Archbishop of York; it was laid in ruins by Count d'Armagnac in 1405.

#### MODERN BUILDINGS.

Besides the churches already enumerated, there are a few others, either less remarkable or of a more modern date. The little church of St. Eloi, supposed to have been founded in the year 1159, offers nothing worthy of notice; that of Sainte Eulalie, probably reconstructed in 1173, is said to contain the relics of



seven saints of the third century, presented by Charlemagne in 811; the church of St. Dominic, the origin of which dates from the thirteenth century, rebuilt by the Jacobins in 1701; the church of St. Pierre, said to be of ancient origin, and reconstructed in the fifteenth century; the church of St. Bruno \*, founded in the beginning of the seventeenth century, has a few fresco paintings of Berinzago; that of St. Louis, built in 1671; that of St. Paul, constructed by the Jesuits in 1676, contains a fine statue of St. François Xavier by the famous Guillaume Courton; and, lastly, the churches of St. Martial and St. Nicholas, of very recent date.

The French Protestants have two temples or chapels in Bordeaux; the entrance of one of which is ornamented with four columns of the Ionic order; the other is of very plain construction.

To this list must be added the new English church, forming the centre of a row of houses lately built in the English style by Mr. Daniel Questier, one of the

\* The grand cemetery called *La Chartreuse* is adjacent to this church. This spot has lately become a place of much notoriety, in consequence of a pretty generally credited report that immense treasures were buried, at the outbreak of the first French Revolution, in the subterraneous passages leading from the church beneath the cemetery. This revelation is said to have been made, a few years ago, by a Chartreux friar on his death-bed in Switzerland. Many thousands of francs have been subscribed by speculating persons towards the expense of digging, &c.; but, hitherto, the search has proved unsuccessful.

oldest merchants of this town ; it is let to the English community. Here the service of the Church of England is performed by the Rev. St. John Quin, British consular chaplain, a man as remarkable for his extensive learning as estimable for the daily practice of those virtues which adorn the Christian minister.

Several elegant mansions belonging to English families, and situated in the immediate vicinity of Bordeaux, deserve to be mentioned among its ornaments ; the mansion in the park of Lescure, a handsome model of Italian architecture, the property of N. Johnston, Esq. ; the château and grounds at Florac, belonging to P. F. Guestier, peer of France ; and the *Bocage* at Caudéran, the residence of F. Cutler, Esq., the English vice-consul.

But of all the buildings in Bordeaux, none are more justly admired, both by natives and foreigners, than the bridge and the great theatre.

The bridge, composed of seventeen arches, is 1500 feet long, and nearly 45 feet wide. The interior is hollow, and formed into galleries, which communicate from one vault to the other : the entrance to these galleries is on the eastern or right bank on La Bastide, and open to the public. The view of the town, river, and shipping, from this bridge, is truly magnificent.

The theatre, the *chef d'œuvre* of the architect

Louis, was erected in 1780, by order of the Duke de Richelieu, then governor of Guienne. Its base is an oblong rectangle, about 300 feet long and 150 wide; and the height of the building, from the cellars to the roof, is also 150 feet. The exterior of this theatre is reckoned one of the finest in the world, and justly deserves the exclamation of Arthur Young, in 1787: "Never did I behold any thing that can be compared to the great theatre of Bordeaux!" a sentiment that has been re-echoed by thousands of his countrymen.

Its front is a Corinthian colonnade, composed of twelve columns, each being three feet in diameter, and surmounted by a colossal statue; the other sides are decorated with pilasters of the same order as the front: its spacious vestibule and grand staircase are likewise greatly admired.

Among the many other fine buildings, the most remarkable are, the *Hôtel de Ville*, constructed in 1778, by Cardinal de Rohan, formerly an archbishop's palace, but now appropriated to civic purposes, after having been successively the *Préfecture*, the imperial, and the royal palace, the spacious ground-floor being used as a museum of pictures: the *Préfecture* and the *Bourse*, which are also noble buildings; and, lastly, the city gates, of which, the one denominated *Porte de l'Hôtel de Ville* was constructed by Henry III. of England in 1246

the other, *Porte du Palais*, in 1492, in honour of the victory of Charles VIII. at Fornova. Several of the other gates of a more modern date, as well as the hospital\*, the prison, the Palais de Justice, the *Hôtels de Richelieu, de la Paix*, and *de Rouen et de France*, deserve also to be mentioned among the ornamental edifices of Bordeaux.

#### CHARACTER AND MANNERS OF THE PEOPLE.

In a country occupied at various periods by different races of men, where Gauls, Romans, Goths, Franks, Saracens, Normans, Gascons, and English have succeeded each other, the physiognomy of the inhabitants must naturally be of a various and mingled character. The prevailing feature, however, is undoubtedly Spanish or Cantabrian, which suggests the supposition that the present population is chiefly descended from the Gauls and ancient Aquitani.

However it may be, it is certain that the character and manners ascribed to the Aquitani by their ancient historians Ammianus Marcellinus and Salvienus †, are still recognisable among the present population, though modified by the change of laws, religion, and

\* Built principally by means of a donation of the Duke de Richelieu.

† See Ammianus Marcellinus, lib. xiii. and xvi. ; and Salvienus, *De Guber. Dei*, lib. vii.

government, and by the general progress of civilisation.

The natives, generally, are lively, petulant, gay, jovial, witty, and taunting; easily incensed, and as easily pacified. If they are reproached with being inconstant, vain, improvident, bombastic, and averse to study, yet no one will deny their generosity, sobriety, and universal benevolence. Their love of pleasure and their passion for dress, are excessive: the merchant delights in displaying the magnificence of his table; and the peasant, heedless of the future, spends at the Sunday banquet all the earnings of his weekly labour. The richer ladies seek, in the display of their costly dresses and diamond ornaments, that gratification which the humbler of their sex enjoy in trying to outshine one another in the richness of their caps, ribbons, and shawls.

This general character does not apply to the inhabitants of the Landes. The further we advance into that unfruitful region, the more striking the difference becomes. The people are more taciturn, melancholy, and apathetic: the most remote seem to have lost every trace of the national character, excepting hospitality.

The immense high cap, still in vogue in the parish of *St. Michel*, and formerly almost universal in Bordeaux, among the lower classes, has been gradually superseded by the handkerchief, which envelopes the

head, and forms a kind of turban. The *grisette* is distinguished by her lace cap and long shawl, and forms the intermediate rank between the higher and lower class; she is, however, daily aspiring to the honour of wearing the *chapeau* or bonnet, which, till now, had been considered the exclusive privilege of ladies.

Dress, which formerly distinguished ranks, now serves only to confound them. In the town, the merchant, the tradesman, and the artisan, wear, when work is over, almost the same costume; the round jacket and cloth cap being reserved for the workshop.

The inhabitant of the Landes, however, as he differs in character, differs also in dress. He wears a broad-brimmed hat, or else a *berret*, or kind of cap, knee-breeches, a waistcoat, and a jacket made of coarse cloth. If he is not bare legged, he wears thick woollen stockings and large *sabots*, or wooden shoes. The shepherds wear, moreover, a kind of pelisse, made of sheepskin, without either collar or sleeves, very ample, but reaching only to the knee. In bad weather they put on over this a kind of cloak, made of strong white drugget, or coarse flannel, furnished with a high collar and a hood of the same material; and encase their legs in sheepskin gaiters, or boots, the wool being worn outwards. To complete the costume of the *Landais*, we must add his stilts, and

a pole seven or eight feet long, a bissac or wallet suspended by his side, a gourd to hold his beverage, a long pistol in a sheepskin case, and, lastly, a wool-len cap. The stilts, from four to five feet in length, are buckled to the leg and foot, and reach only to the knee. When the shepherd wishes to rest himself, he passes his long pole behind him, so as to form an angle with the ground, and sits upon the other extremity. The rapidity with which he strides along the marshes, and his dexterity in the use of his pole and stilts, fill strangers with astonishment.

SUPERSTITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The country people of the Gironde, especially the *Landais* and the inhabitants of Médoc, are very superstitious. They believe in ghosts, witchcraft, and the *mal donné*, or evil eye. Wizards and diviners are still in repute among them, and are consulted by them in case of sickness.

In other parts, some privileged saint is invoked to cure them, in preference to the wizards. In the village of Courbarieu, in the canton of St. André, a chapel dedicated to St. Sicaire is much frequented by nurses, because the blessed patron is supposed to have the power of healing and strengthening caco-chymic children, though they be even in the last

stage of consumption. On the 17th of January, also, they carry their babes into the parish of St. Antony: an arm placed on the altar, which, doubtless, contains some relic, to cure or preserve the child from St. Antony's fire. The poor women believe it, and cast their sous into the offertory-plate without counting them; otherwise, if they knew the number, the child would not be cured. In the same canton, they who have weak eyes, or wish to preserve their sight, go to Aubie, to touch the relics of St. Clair. The same superstition used to draw crowds to the church of Sainte Eulalie at Bordeaux, on St. Clair's Day.

At Bordeaux, also, on the anniversary of St. Fort, a saint unmentioned in the legends, but whose day has been kept from time immemorial on the 16th of May, nurses flock from all corners of the department to visit the subterraneous chapel of that saint, in St. Seurin's church. There, they walk nine times round his tomb, and, at every turn, place the child upon the sepulchral stone. A somewhat similar custom was observed, till lately, in the church of St. Michel de Rieufret, in the canton of Podensac: the women, to insure a long life to their children, went to the church, and passed the new-born babe through a hole formed for that purpose in an oaken partition.\*

\* The following anecdote is related of the late worthy Cardinal de Cheverus on this subject. Being averse to these absurd practices, he repaired to Saint Michel de Podensac for the pur-



The holy thorn of Libourne, "the object of the profound veneration of the inhabitants of that city and the neighbouring parishes\*," ought certainly not to pass unnoticed. According to the devout chronicler, Charlemagne bestowed this holy relic on the church of St. Thomas, about the middle of the eighth century, being then at Libourne, whilst he was building the castle of Fronsac. He had given it as one of the true thorns of the crown of Jesus Christ. According to the ancient notices of the convent *des cordeliers*, we learn, moreover, that the Princess of Wales, the wife of Edward the Black Prince, being at Condat, built and consecrated the chapel of *l'Epinette* (or the thorn) at a short distance from the city of Libourne; though some ascribe the original foundation to Eleanor, the wife of Henry II., king of England. Be this as it may, the Princess of Wales consecrated this chapel in 1363 or 1364, on account of the holy thorn, which she wished to have deposited there. The princess, surrounded by her guards and the officers of her household, walked, under a pall of black velvet, towards the chapel, and

pose of inducing the priests to stop up the hole in question. His remonstrances were made in vain: "It will be necessary first to find out a way of stopping up this hole," replied a fat priest, pointing to his own mouth.

\* *Variétés historiques sur la ville de Libourne*, par J. B. A. Souffrain, advocate and judge, Bordeaux, 1808. This author devotes eight pages to the history of this "*sainte relique*."

was present at this ceremony, which was performed by Amadiou de Lamothe, Archbishop of Bordeaux. Since that time a procession was annually formed, at which the secular priests, the *cordeliers*, and even the mayor and municipal counsellors, were obliged to be present, "under pain of being deprived of their wages and privileges."

The same notes inform us that Louis XI., when lodging at this convent, after having caused as many masses to be said as there were altars in the church, "walked barefoot to *L'Epinette*, to adore the holy relic;" and that his brother Charles came afterwards to Libourne, visited this relic with a *saint respect*, and had a handsome silver box made to keep it in.

In 1564, however, the *heretics* made an attack upon the suburbs of Libourne, and devastated the chapel; so that, for "*long years the relic was lost for ever*," Not so. It had been saved by a *marguillier* (churchwarden), who had carried it into the sacristy of St. Thomas's church, where he deposited it with a *note en manière de procès-verbal*, or affidavit, in a hole in the wall, which he afterwards stopped up with mortar whitened with chalk, like the rest of the wall of the sacristy. This worthy churchwarden was unfortunately gathered to his fathers without divulging his secret; so that it was not discovered till forty-five years afterwards, when some workmen accidentally discovered the niche in repairing the walls of the church.

The discovery was hailed with enthusiasm: and the concourse of people who flocked to Libourne, to be present at the new auguration was so great that they were obliged to say mass in the open air, — one in the small square of St. Thomas, and a second in the large one. The Cardinal de Sourdis, Archbishop of Bordeaux, preached in the parish church, and officiated with much splendour: he also ordered that from that day, on every Sunday in Passion Week, the holy relic should be carried in procession through the town; which was done down to the period of the French Revolution.

Soon after the new auguration, the thorn became an apple of discord between the churches of St. John and St. Thomas; and we find the priests of the latter beginning a law-suit against those of St. John for the restitution of the relic. The affair was brought before parliament, which decided that “every year the holy thorn should be transferred from St. John’s to St. Thomas’s church on the festival of St. Clair’s Day, and that after it had been presented to be kissed by the faithful for three days, it should be brought back again to the parish church.”

In the second year of the Republic the holy thorn was profaned, broken, lost, and finally found again.\* It seems that a public notary at that period received and religiously preserved this very ancient relic; but,

\* I have before me a long *procès-verbal* on this subject.

on some occasion or other, an inquisitive ungodly man, *curieux irrévérent*, to whom he had shown it, thinking it fictitious, broke it in two: the two parts were afterwards joined together by a golden groove. At this time the Archbishop of Bordeaux, being called upon to decide whether the relic were genuine or not, declined to give an opinion; but in 1804, when the Roman Catholic religion was again restored to France, this prelate instituted an inquiry, and, finding it very satisfactory, authenticated the relic, fixed his seal upon the opening and the hinges of the box, and, by an episcopal ordinance, decreed that this reliquary should be carried every year, on Passion Sunday, and afterwards exposed and given to the faithful to kiss, on the days of the invention and exaltation of the cross, and on St. Clair's Day.\*

“We have entered into these details,” says the same author, “to give some satisfaction to the great number of the population of Libourne and the neighbouring parishes, who, from father to son, have been faithfully attached to this object of their profound veneration: leaving to the scoffers of religion, since it must be so, the fatal liberty of turning into ridicule whatever tends to the re-establishment of that divine worship which caused the happiness of our fathers.”

At Bazas we find another pious relic, the blood of St. John the Baptist, the tradition of which is to be

\* *Variétés Historiques sur la ville de Libourne*, vol. ii. ch. 21.

found in the history of that town. "The ancient chroniclers pretend that a lady of our country (Bazas) went to Jerusalem, in the time of Tiberius, to see the Saviour, the fame of whose miracles had spread to the remotest confines of the Roman Empire, and that she brought back the relic of St. John the Baptist. This relic was in the form of a silver shell (*concha argentea*), and contained a piece of cloth stained with the blood of St. John the Baptist. On her return to Bazas the lady erected an altar, upon which she deposited the relic, in the very place where St. John's church was afterwards built." The author from whose book I am quoting sees nothing incredible in this story, and answers the objection raised as to the impracticability of the journey for a lady, by reminding us of the facility with which the Roman legions used to travel from one end of the empire to the other. He goes on to say "that St. Gregory of Tours, who lived in the middle of the sixth century, relates this tradition, and how the lady had arrived at Jerusalem at the moment of the death of St. John, interested the executioners in her favour, and, by her largesses, obtained permission to dip, in the blood of the victim, a linen cloth (*mappula*), which she afterwards enclosed in a silver vase, a sort of *ampulla*, shaped like a shell. Our chronicle, as well as St. Gregory, says that she landed at Soulac (*Solacum*), then a sea-port, traversed the country of Médoc

(*Medulchi*), and, at length, arrived at Bazas, where she built a chapel, and placed the relic upon an altar which she constructed in honour of St. John. During the invasion of the Normans in 853, a pious priest of Bazas undertook to preserve the shell containing the blood of the saint; and to place it in safety, carried it to a Christian woman in the neighbourhood of the town; whither the faithful repaired regularly to venerate it and implore the protection of the harbinger. The shell remained for a long time in the custody of this pious family, and the place where it was kept still preserves the name of *Conque*.

After the Normans had disappeared, the relic was taken back to St. John's church, and buried underground behind the high altar. It was found again in 1096; and Urban II., after the council of Clermont, having come to Bazas to consecrate the new church, examined the documents, and pronounced the authenticity of this pious relic.\*

The little *commune* or parish of Verdélais has been long celebrated for the pilgrimages made there on all the festivals of the Virgin; but principally on those of the 15th of August and the 8th of September. A number of miracles are quoted as performed by the Madonna of Verdélais. The numerous *ex-voto* which adorn the walls of her chapel have been suspended

\* *Essai sur l'histoire de la ville de Bazas*, par l'Abbe Pat. J. O'Reilly, 1840, pp. 83. 150, 151, 152.

by the mariners whom she has saved from shipwreck; that forest of crutches suspended in the interior of the edifice are those of the grateful paralytics whom she has restored to the use of their limbs. The chapel of Arcâchon, dedicated to the Virgin, is also made the object of a particular worship by the poor fishermen of La Teste. It is there they proceed barefoot, and without any covering but their shirts, to accomplish their vows made in a moment of danger. Another superstitious worship, that of St. Valery, whom the inhabitants of St. Emilion believed to be *a son* of the Virgin, was as follows:—Pilgrims resorted thither in crowds, to implore the cure of their rheumatisms and other maladies. They took that part of their dress which was in contact with the afflicted member, rubbed St. Valery with it, and afterwards applied the same treatment to their own limbs, entreating the Virgin to intercede with her son for their perfect cure. These rubbings produced an immense revenue to the convent.

These absurd practices, invented, or, at least, encouraged, by priestcraft, ever preying on the credulity of the many for the emolument of the few, are gradually expiring, under the genial influence of knowledge and common sense. “It is to be hoped that the day is not distant when they will all have undergone the fate of the holy thorn of Libourne, the blood of St. Jean at Bazas, the finger of St. Serge at

Bordeaux, and the electric rubbings of St. Valery. The coffers of St. Fort, St. Valery, and St. Michel, will be indeed less plentifully supplied from the hard-earned wages of the poor ; but religion will lose nothing by being divested of these mummeries ; and many children, whose lives would be abridged by these pilgrimages, will be preserved to society.”\*

#### CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE.

Among the customs of the people we find some common to all France : such are, the bonfires on St. John's Day ; masts, crowned with flowers, planted on the first of May by lovers under the windows of their mistresses, or by the peasants before the door of their good mayor. Others are peculiar to this part : such are, the bonfires of St. John repeated on St. Peter's Day ; the crosses of flowers which we see nailed over the doors, especially in villages. These flowers, having been passed three times through the flames of the sacred bonfires, or blessed on Palm Sunday, are believed by the peasants to be the best preservative against lightning and evil spirits.

The spirit of vanity and exaggeration, which forms a weak but innocent part of the Bordeaux character, is particularly displayed in the dimensions it gives to

\* Jouannet, vol. i. p. 177.



the nuptial crown of flowers, which is often so large and heavy, that it requires to be carried by two men on a litter. The hoop that forms its base is more than a yard in diameter, and the cone of flowers by which it is surmounted, having the nuptial nosegay at the top, is six feet high. By the size of the crown people are led to judge of the expense; and the number of nosegays of pinks and roses enables them to calculate the number of the guests: the roses are for the women, the pinks for the men. The ancient custom of strewing myrtle and laurel, from the door of the bride as far as the altar, is also maintained in Bordeaux; rose leaves are sometimes used instead of laurel.

The saturnalia of the carnival afford, perhaps, the best occasion of witnessing the national gaiety. Whatever be the weather on Ash Wednesday\*, the whole population of Bordeaux issues forth on foot, in coaches, or on horseback, to be present at the last ebullition of merry-making, on the Canderau road, adjoining the town. From two in the afternoon till midnight, both sides of the road are crowded with foot-passengers, whilst the middle is occupied by coaches and horsemen. Some go to see, others to be seen; and grotesque masks are in every direction. Easter Monday is also a grand day at Canderau; but

\* The great luxury of the lower orders on this day is snails, which are fattened in bran and stewed in garlic.

the concourse is less tumultuous and more decent, for they go to eat the pascal lamb.

Some of the parishes in Médoc have their peculiar customs for marriages and funerals.

On the wedding-day the bride chooses one of her relations, gives him a handkerchief, and names him her *ensign*. The handkerchief, tied to a pole adorned with ribbons, is the flag; and the bearer's function is to precede the procession, and remove every obstacle from the road they take. Another person accompanies him, armed with a holly-broom. The *ensign* finds plenty of occupation: the village wits delight in creating every kind of obstacle on the road. On the morrow, when his functions are at an end, after the customary repast, he lights his companion's broom, and, holding this brand, drives out all the guests, shouting the popular air, *Allez vous en, gens de la noce*, &c.

This custom of the holly-broom, this precaution to clear and prepare the road for the bride and bridegroom, seems to have originated in the formerly general belief in witchcraft, evil spirits, and ill omens.

When an inhabitant of the Landes is dangerously ill and expected to die, a near relation is charged to visit him, and engage him to settle his affairs. This sad duty is often done by the son for the father, and by the father for the son; and the news is quietly given and calmly received. The family, that is, the

nearest relations, follow the coffin to the church, — never to the burial-ground. Afterwards, they all return home, and go to bed; — a singular custom, the origin of which is unaccountable, unless it be considered as an outward demonstration of excessive grief.

The higher classes of inhabitants in Guienne speak generally good French, though with more or less of a provincial accent; but the lower orders, both in town and country, speak Gascon, their own *patois*, or peculiar idiom. This language, a compound of French and Spanish, and derived from the *langue Romane*, or a corruption of the Latin tongue, is one of the numerous dialects of the language of *Oc*; modified, however, by the influence of time, and the more frequent communications between the northern and southern provinces. The following Gascon verses, translated by M. Bergeret from La Fontaine's fable, may serve to give some idea of this language: —

La rason del pu fort es toujour la milhouro :

Z'où prouboray tout aquesto houro.

Un joyno agnel, per se coupa la set,

D'un moubomen mol é doucet

Beignabo sa lenguo éfantino

Din lou courren d'un rins á l'aygueto argentino.

Quant protcho d'el fut amenat

Un loup que la gulo poussabo.

Lou carnassié qualquo boussi sercabo ;

Car n'abébo pas deyunat.

&c. &c.

The following is the French translation by the same author : —

La raison du plus fort est toujours la meilleure :  
Je le prouverai tout à l'heure.  
Un jeune agneau, pour se couper la soif,  
D'un mouvement mou et doux  
Baignait sa langue enfantine  
Dans le courant d'un ruisseau à l'eau argentée,  
Quand près de lui fut amené  
Un loup que la gourmandise poussait.  
L'animal carnassier quelque morceau cherchait ;  
Car il n'avait pas déjeuné.  
  &c. &c.

#### PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

According to authentic documents, there were establishments of public instruction in Bordeaux as early as the third century, when the Greek and Latin languages, poetry, and rhetoric were taught there by several eminent professors. This prosperity, however, was annihilated by the invasions of barbarians ; and, with the exception of a few literary men in the fifth century, whose memory still survives in the verses and epistles of Sidonius Apollinaris, and who seem to have been the last glimmering of the intellectual flame, no name is found to illumine the general darkness which prevailed from the period of those invasions down to the palmy days of Charlemagne. The efforts of this great warrior to restore learning were as admirable and astonishing as his warlike

achievements. His patronage of learned men, and, among others, of our celebrated countryman, Albin or Alquin, who became his preceptor, and his sending two prelates who, under the title of *missi dominici*, were charged to visit the bishoprics, monasteries, and convents, in the south of his empire, are facts which belong to general history.

Louis le Débonnaire and Charles the Bald continued the improvements begun by their glorious predecessor; but troubles, wars, and the invasions of the Normans, retarded the progress of learning, which took refuge in the cloisters, where the monks, amid the ruins of their dilapidated monasteries, still studied the sacred volumes, and copied the legends of antiquity.

In the year 1441, pope Eugene IV., at the solicitation of Pey-Berland, Archbishop of Bordeaux, first founded a university in the town; Louis XI. next endowed it with privileges in 1472; and, lastly, Francis I., on his return from Spain in 1526, used all his influence to promote the interests of this establishment.

The glory of the college of Guienne may be said to begin at this period; and, indeed, we find about the year 1534, several celebrated names, such as Govea, Jules Scaliger, George Buchanan, and Elie Vinet, among its learned professors. They say also that John III., king of Portugal, after founding a

college at Coïmbra, supplied it with professors from that of Guienne. But the establishment of a college of Jesuits in 1573, and the quarrels of religion, caused its prosperity afterwards to decline.

By the advice of Henri D'Aguesseau, the jurats of the town saved the college from total discredit, by appointing as principal, Pierre Bardin, a scholar and an able man, under whose care it soon regained its former celebrity. They also voted it an annual sum of 3000 francs, in order, say the statutes, that it might be provided with learned, and *not barbarous*, professors. The same documents inform us, that the college of Guienne possessed, at one time, as many as three thousand students.

The college of Jesuits, founded in 1571, and suppressed in 1762, when the Jesuits were obliged to quit Bordeaux, was, under the name of College de la Madeleine, united, in 1772, to the college of Guienne, which flourished under the skilful management of the *doctrinaires* down to the period of the French Revolution. Besides the college of Guienne, the department possessed several smaller ones, as Cadillac, Bazas, Langon, La Reole, Sainte-Foy, and Libourne. "The education of girls was conducted almost entirely by religious communities, where the observances of religion were more attended to than the cultivation of the mind; and where proselytism frequently kidnapped, for the profit of the cloister, chil-

dren whom their families intended for the world; seduction assuming the name of vocation.”\*

During the disturbances of the revolution, the department was without any public instruction: the schools and colleges were deserted. The law of 1795 created a new system of *primary* and *central* schools, which were public and gratuitous; and, though they lasted but six years, the latter produced several famous orators and distinguished writers. The central school of Bordeaux was installed in 1796. In 1802, public instruction received a new organization: it had its Lyceums, with its secondary and primary schools; and the central school of Bordeaux was replaced by the Lyceum. In the latter, as well as in the secondary schools, the *régime* was entirely military; and a law in 1806, and an imperial decree in 1808, which organised the University and created the academies, subjected every establishment of instruction, public or private, to the same regulation, and schoolmasters were obliged to send their pupils to attend lectures at the Lyceum. This order of things caused the ruin of several establishments; but it was merely a displacing of pupils, and studies were not followed with less ardour and zeal, even when the cruel exigencies of war decimated the pupils upon the benches of rhetoric and philosophy.

\* Jouannet, *Statistique de la Gironde*, vol. ii. p. 8.

The academy of Bordeaux, created by the law of public instruction, embraces three departments, the Gironde, the Dordogne, and the Charente Inférieure. It is governed by a rector and two inspectors, and comprises three faculties, a royal college, two communal colleges, all the institutions and boarding-schools, as well as the schools of primary instruction.

The *faculties* are three in number; that of *theology*, comprehending ecclesiastical history, morality, dogmatic theology, and the Scriptures, consists of four professors; that of *sciences*, comprising mathematics, astronomy, natural sciences, physics, and chemistry, is composed of six professors; and, lastly, that of *belles-lettres*, comprehending history, philosophy, ancient literature, foreign literature, and French literature, is composed of five professors. The faculty of theology is of ancient, and the two others of recent foundation. They were installed in 1839 in one of the wings of the Hotel de Ville, and their lecture rooms are both tasteful and commodious: the lectures are gratis, and begin on the 18th of November; they are for the most part attended by numerous and attentive auditors; the room, for instance, where the lectures on history are given by M. Rabanis, dean of the faculty of letters, whose learning and extemporaneous eloquence are equally remarkable, is generally crowded to excess.

The department possesses also two communal col-



leges, one at Libourne and another at La Réole; four other institutions, situated at Bordeaux, Bazas, Toulonne, and Ste. Foy; twenty-eight boarding-schools for boys\*, and, including the religious communities, fifty schools for girls, besides nine gratuitous schools for boys, seventeen for girls, and about eleven hundred and eighty-two schools of primary instruction for either sex.†

Besides the faculties already mentioned, Bordeaux possesses several *cours municipaux*, or public lectures, founded by the municipal administration, comprising: 1st, geometry and mechanics; 2dly, chemistry, as applied to the arts; and 3dly, agriculture. These lectures are given gratis thrice a week in the hall of the academy.

To complete the list of public instruction, we must now enumerate the royal school of navigation, in which gratuitous lessons are given on geometry, trigonometry, and navigation, in connection with nautical observations; the royal school of midwifery; the royal institution for the deaf and dumb; the naval school for cabin boys and novices; the secondary school of medicine and surgery; the school of botany; the school of drawing and painting; the

\* To this list may be added a Protestant collegial boarding school, established this year (1845), under the auspices of Messrs. Peyrat and Pellicier.

† Jouannet, *Statistique de la Gironde*.

school of sculpture; the school of political economy; the school for notaries; and the royal riding-school.

Among the learned societies of the town, the most important is the academy of belles-lettres, arts, and sciences. Instituted in 1712, under the patronage of the Duke de la Force, it was afterwards enriched by several generous individuals, and especially by a M. J. J. Bel, who bequeathed to it his extensive library and spacious hôtel. It was, however, stripped of its inheritance when the academies were suppressed by the revolution; but in 1828, a royal ordinance restored its statutes and its ancient title. This mansion now contains the public library, the museum of natural history, and a gallery of antiquities.

The other learned societies are the Royal Society of Medicine, the Medical Society of Emulation, the Society of Pharmacy, the Linnean Society, and, lastly, the Philomathic Society.

The most select *circles*, or clubs, are the Circle of Commerce, the Union, the Comedy, the Jockey Club, and the Philharmonic; to which list may be added a choice *réunion* of an essentially English character, lately established, under favourable auspices, by Nat. Johnston, Esq., and J. P. Judd, Esq., and termed the Bordeaux Cricket Club.\*

\* The game is played in Lescure Park. Strangers are admitted to witness the game, provided they be accompanied by a member of the club.

## CELEBRATED PERSONS.

Ausonius (Julius), the father of the poet of this name, was born at Bazas, about the year 302. He became physician to the emperor Valentinian, and published some works on medicine, which have, however, long ceased to exist.

Ausonius (Decius Magnus), the son of the former, was born in Bordeaux, and lived in the reigns of Valentinian, Gratian, and Theodosius. He composed several epigrams, idyls, and epistles, both in prose and verse: his idyls on the *Roses* and the *Moselle*, are reckoned among the best pieces of the last age of Latin literature. He is supposed to have died at the age of seventy, in the reign of the tyrant Maximus.

St. Paulin, a native of Bordeaux, and the pupil of Ausonius, became ultimately bishop of Nola. He had married a rich and virtuous Spanish lady named Therasie. After the death of their only son, being disgusted with the world, they sold all they possessed, gave the money to the poor, and lived in the greatest austerity. Paulin, having been afterwards raised to the priesthood, journeyed to Italy, accompanied by his wife whom he tenderly loved, and settled at Nola. The see of this city having become vacant in 409,

St. Paulin was raised to the bishopric by the unanimous voice of the people. He died in 431.

Eleanor of Guienne, the granddaughter of William IX., one of the most ancient troubadours, was born at the Château de Belin (about twenty-four miles from Bordeaux), towards the beginning of the twelfth century. By her marriage with Louis VII., she became Queen of France in 1137, and by her subsequent marriage with the Count of Anjou, Queen of England in 1154. It is now generally supposed that the conduct of this princess was neither so criminal nor so laudable as rival historians have pretended. She died in 1203, at the Abbey of Fontevrault, and was then more than eighty years of age, fifteen of which she had passed in prison.

Geoffroi Rudel, Lord of Blaye, lived towards the close of the twelfth century. He owes his celebrity to a few verses, his extravagant love, and deplorable end. Having heard, from some pilgrims returning from Antioch, of the surpassing loveliness of a princess of Tripoli (probably Mésilenda), Rudel assumed the cross, and traversed the sea, merely for the pleasure of beholding her. He fell ill during the voyage, and was landed dying at Tripoli. A report of his adventure and approaching death reached the ears of the princess, who, touched with compassion, repaired to the dying chevalier, hoping, but in vain, to restore him to life. Rudel expired a few moments after he had seen her.

In the beginning of the fourteenth century this province furnished a pope to the Holy See, in the person of Bertrand de Goth or Gouth. Born of a good family at the village of Villandraut, named Bishop of Comminges in 1295, and promoted afterwards to the archbishopric of Bordeaux, the intrigues of Philip le Bel raised him to the pontifical throne in the year 1305, under the name of Clement V. History accuses him of boundless cupidity, shameful excesses, amours with the Princess of Perigord, and infamous intrigues, "which would make a simple layman blush." He is also reproached with the proscription of the Templars, and the assassination of their grand master.

Michel Montaigne, the immortal writer of the *Essais*, was born in Perigord, in 1533, but educated in Bordeaux, where he passed his life, and was mayor of the town for four years. His well known philosophical work is learned, natural, and profound.

Montesquieu (Charles Secondat, Baron de la Brède) was born at La Brède, near Bordeaux, in 1689; his *Considérations sur les Causes de la Grandeur et la Décadence des Romains*, his *Lettres Persanes*, and especially his famous work *Esprit des Lois*, in 1748, to which he had devoted his whole life, have immortalised his name, and gained for him the title of "Legislator of Nations."

Arnaud Berquin, celebrated for his romances and idyls, was born in Bordeaux, in 1749. He has left a number of useful works. His style is agreeable, tender, and natural. His work, *L'Ami des Enfants*, was crowned by the French Academy in 1784. Berquin died in 1791.

During the stormy period of the first French revolution, several natives of Bordeaux and its neighbourhood distinguished themselves as writers or orators. The most famous are Vergniaud, Gensonné, Guadet, Fonfrede, Ducos, Grangeneuve, and Deleyre. Nor must we forget to mention the heroic Romain Desèze, one of the two courageous defenders and advocates of the unfortunate Louis XVI., who pleaded the cause of his sovereign at the hazard of his own life. In 1815, he was created peer of France. His nephew, Aurélien, is a distinguished advocate in Bordeaux.

Balguerie-Stuttenberg, born at Bordeaux, in 1779, devoted his talents to the extension of the commercial prosperity, and the embellishment of his native town, which is indebted to his efforts for its fine bridge, the foundation of its bank, its steam-boats, *entrepôt*, foundry, and public baths. He died at Bagnères, universally regretted, in the year 1825, and was buried in Bordeaux with much funeral pomp.

Lastly, Joseph-Henri-Joachim Lainé, born at Bordeaux in 1767, became deputy in 1808, and dis-

tinguished himself as an orator in the legislative assembly, where he courageously opposed the arbitrary measures of Napoleon. He was made minister in 1816. It is remarked of him that he seemed always actuated by conviction, and not by a spirit of intrigue; and that he is one of the few men who, in becoming ministers, have neither increased their fortunes nor changed their manners. He died in Paris in the month of December, 1835.

## RAILROAD TO LA TESTE.

Obedient to the impulse of this age of active enterprise and social progress, Bordeaux was one of the very first cities of the Continent to employ steamboats, raise a suspension bridge, and construct a railroad.

M. Fortuné de Vergès, the engineer of the magnificent suspension bridge at Cubzac, was charged with the execution of the railroad to La Teste, which, owing to the spirited support of Nat. Johnston, Esq., of Bordeaux, was completed in 1841, after three years' labour, and opened on the 6th of July, with great ceremony, in presence of the archbishop, the authorities of the department, and some thousands of spectators.

The entire length of the railway is about 32½

miles. It is, at present, a single line; but there is room enough to lay down double rails if the service required it. Besides the two principal stations, Bordeaux and La Teste, there are twenty intermediate ones. The service is carefully attended to, and hitherto no accident has happened to damp the implicit confidence of the passengers. Conveyances, corresponding with the railroad, start from the *theatre* every day, at appointed hours, which are duly advertised in the daily newspapers.

On leaving the Bordeaux station, a fine substantial building, the traveller passes, for some time, through a country adorned with delightful villas and fruitful vineyards. One of the first interesting objects, on the right, is an estate named *La Mission*, the wines of which are much esteemed; the next is the domain of *Haut Brion*\*, so celebrated for its famous red wines of the first *crû* of *Graves*. The train then passes over a magnificent viaduct, which spans the valley from Haut Brion to the village of Pessac: this viaduct is 3000 feet long, and composed of 91 arches about 33 feet high. After leaving the charming neighbourhood of Pessac, the railroad traverses a grove of acacias, and passes near a property, which, as well as its wine, is still named after Pope

\* For a description of this vineyard and its produce, see p. 167.



Clement V., and has likewise a considerable reputation.\*

We now come to St. Médard, remarkable for a fine plantation of maritime pine, that thrives well in these inhospitable *Landes*, upon which we are now entering. The next station rejoices in the outlandish appellation of Toquetoucau, which, in the *Landais patois*, means "drive very gently" (*Toque toutt chaou*), formerly a very salutary advice to travellers in the dangerous swamps through which we are now sweeping with whirlwind velocity, but where formerly carts and oxen, without the greatest precaution, were every moment in danger of utter destruction.

On reaching the station of Pierroton, the *Landes* appear in all their sterile grandeur; a vast, wild, uncultivated desert, seemingly disinherited by creation. The station of Teste More, formerly a day's journey from Bordeaux, but now reached in an hour, is considered about half-way; and here, accordingly, the train stops for a few minutes to receive fuel and water. Excepting dark forests of pines, and here and there a few very recent attempts at cultivation, nothing enlivens the gloom of this immense solitude. Sometimes, however, a shepherd may be seen, either reposing on his stilts, or stalking, like an embodied

\* The commune of Pessac possesses also the Château de Sainte-Marie, well known for its wines.

vapour of the marsh, with rapid and gigantic strides, till he is confounded with the mists of the horizon.\* Perched on these stilts, he is enabled to overlook and collect his scattered flock, and traverse swamps where a horse and his rider would inevitably perish.

The melancholy sentiment which naturally oppresses the traveller on beholding this sad blank in nature, may be somewhat dispelled by the knowledge of the happy results of recent experiments, which prove that several trees, such as the pine, the acacia, the oak, the chestnut, and even the mulberry, may thrive in this long-neglected region, the soil of which is not altogether so sterile as it appears.†

We now arrive at Biard; but the scene is still the same: nothing but Landes, an immense desert on all sides, bounded only by the horizon. Next comes Argenteyres, a miserable hamlet, composed of twelve huts, formerly famous, or rather infamous, among travellers, on account of its bad inn; where the weary famished guest found nothing to eat or drink, unless, grown provident from sad experience, he carried his provisions with him.

After passing through vast forests of pines (*pinadas*), we at length discern some signs of cultivated lands;

\* For a description of the Landais, see pp. 79, 80.

† Near the station of Mios, for instance, about fourteen miles from Bordeaux, Mr. Quëstier has an estate of 1,100 acres, which he has planted with pines that are thriving remarkably well.

the desert is left behind, and the station of Camelayre restores us to the land of the living. At *Facture*\*, the next station, there is a factory of iron; and further on may be seen a glass manufactory and other buildings. Then, emerging from marshes, ever inundated in winter, and passing over a wooden bridge, about 220 feet long, thrown over the Leyre, to cross which river travellers were formerly obliged to make a circuit of several leagues, we presently arrive at Le Teich, a faint symptom of civilisation, where we catch a glimpse of the ruins of the ancient Château de Ruat†, a dependency of the famous *Captaux de Buch*, and begin to enjoy a view of the basin of Arcâchon.

Here, when the tide is up, it is a grand and interesting sight to behold the fishing-boats, especially when they crowd back with their sails all set for land. When the tide is down, on the contrary, it is most melancholy to gaze upon this endless plain, sprinkled here and there with boats abandoned by the sea, now totally lost to view, or fast disappearing in the distance; and scarcely can the traveller believe that, in a few hours, this land will again become an immense sheet of water.

\* This estate has been lately purchased by Mr. Festugière of Bordeaux. It contains some 1,500 acres of fertile land, estimated at about 15,000*l*.

† There is famous snipe and woodcock shooting at this place.

The high road from Bordeaux to La Teste, which has hitherto been at a short distance from us on the right, is crossed near Le Teich, and continues to be on the left to the end of the journey. After passing by two or three other stations, among which is Gujan, an agreeable bathing place, the train crosses the canal of Arcâchon, and soon afterwards, a wooden bridge 300 feet long; after which, the village of La Teste is waiting to receive us.

This village, supposed by some to be the *Boïos* mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus, and by Saint Paulin, under the barbarously Latinized appellation of *Testa Boïorum*, (though if such a place ever existed, it was probably destroyed by the barbarians, and swallowed up by the waves and encroaching sands of the ocean \*,) has, at all events, the honour of having been the chief town of the territory possessed by the famous *Captaux de Buch*, whose renown is inscribed in the martial annals of France and England, whom they served in turns with the most noble devotedness. Scarcely a stone of their strong castle now remains; a small mound alone marks the spot where that "best captain of his age, the rude warrior Jean III. de Graïlly," so often planted his victorious banner.†

\* Jouannet, *passim*; Guide du Voyageur à la Teste, &c.

† "In the year 1369, the valiant Florimont de Lesparre engaged, for the profit and loss of the war, the famous Jean III.

The ravages of war sadly thinned the population of La Teste, which in the year 1500 was diminished to forty houses.\* The generosity of one of its seigneurs, however, tended to restore it; so that its inhabitants who in 1780 had increased to fifteen hundred, now amount to nearly four thousand.

The air of this place is excellent. There is very little sickness; and serious maladies are almost unknown. Longevity is common; and deaths, compared to births, are in the proportion of two to three. The population is composed of resin-makers, fishermen, mariners, and tradespeople. The town, which ten years ago was almost unknown beyond Bordeaux,

de Grailly, Captal de Buch, one of the best captains, and the rudest man-at-arms, of that period. They both displayed admirable prowess throughout the first campaign, at the time of the capture of Limoges, which was taken by storm, and sacked by the Black Prince with frightful barbarity."—(Froissart, iv. 21.; and J. Rabanis, *Notice sur Florimont Sire de Lesparre*, p. 26.) According to the latter learned author, Florimont and the Captal afterwards quarrelled about the ransoms of their prisoners, among whom were the brother and the nephew of pope Gregory XI. The Captal, ultimately, was taken prisoner by the French, and died of rage and despair, after five years' captivity, in the famous *Tour du Temple* at Paris. Florimont, also, was taken by the Spaniards, and confined in the Château of Burgos; and their prisoners, about whom they had quarrelled, remained captives in the Tower of London.

\* The *Captaux de Buch* kept the fishermen of La Teste in the rigorous bonds of feudal servitude till the beginning of the sixteenth century.

has lately become the most fashionable bathing-place in the whole province; a celebrity that is daily increasing.

The traveller has the choice of two hotels, one named the *Chemin de Fer*, the other *Bordeaux*, where charges are extremely moderate. He finds also in these hotels a licence to shoot sea-birds and rabbits in the *Ile des Oiseaux*, or Isle of Birds, situated in the basin of Arcâchon.

The sea-baths of La Teste are found to be wonderfully beneficial in nervous, scrofulous, and rheumatic affections. The latter complaint especially soon disappears under the vivifying influence of *arenation*; which consists in covering the patient up to the neck with the sand that has been warmed by the heat of the sun, on the departure of the tide, and leaving him thus exposed to the ardent rays of the sun, as long as his strength will permit; taking care, however, to shelter his head with a parasol, or the leaves of a tree. He is afterwards wrapped up in a blanket and put to bed.

Besides the amusement of shooting, the traveller may likewise enjoy that of fishing in the basin of Arcâchon; where the bathers frequently accompany the fishermen in their nocturnal excursions to take fish by torch-light. Vast quantities of fish, such as eels, soles, smelts, *muges*, *rougets*, needle-fish, and crabs, are daily taken at or about La Teste; yet fish

is generally very scarce: for it is almost all sent to Bordeaux, where, of course, it realizes a higher price. Royans, a delicious small fish, are also taken in great abundance in the open sea, at a certain season called the great fishery.

Immense numbers of wild-ducks are annually netted in the Island of Birds\*: it frequently happens that several cart-loads of this game are taken in a single night.

The best and most fashionable bathing-place is at about half an hour's ride from La Teste. Here a few public establishments have been erected, the most select of which are two called after the names of their proprietors, *Legallais* and *Gailhard*. Conveyances are constantly waiting to transport the railway passengers to these establishments.

Till lately, this road was very bad; or, rather, there was none. Now, however, in consequence of an anticipated communication with Spain by steamers, and a projected improvement of the entrance to the basin, a fine raised road has been constructed. The fields on the left of this road, formerly a salt marsh, are expected to become valuable meadow land.

The basin of Arcâchon† has also been lately adorned with several elegant summer residences; two

\* This island is about three miles in circumference.

† The superficies of this basin is computed at 30,000 acres.

of which have a very light and graceful appearance: one belongs to N. Johnston, Esq., and the other to F. Cutler, Esq., English Vice-Consul of Bordeaux. M. N. Hovy and other gentlemen are also building handsome cottages in the same locality.

There are many pleasant excursions to be made in this neighbourhood. Besides delightful walks in the forest, and sailing on the basin, the stranger may visit the Chapel of Arcâchon, and the marble monument raised to Brémontier\*, whose genius has preserved this region from the destructive inroads of the ocean, by fixing the sands with forests of pines.† The light-house at the Cap-Ferret, which commands an extensive view of the sea; the canal of Arcâchon; the lakes of Cazau, and Lacanau; and other places in the environs, afford also many an agreeable trip. Time, likewise, passes very pleasantly in the two public establishments above mentioned; where parties are constantly being formed for riding, boating, shooting, fishing, and dancing; so that it is not without regret that the visitor returns to Bordeaux, after spending a few delightful days, and enjoying the invigorating sea-breeze, and the baths of La Teste.

\* Inspector-general of roads and bridges (*ponts et chaussées*).

† The expense of planting pines is nearly 2*l.* 10*s.* per acre. Government allows 2,000*l.* per annum for this purpose. The *dunes*, or sands, are reckoned at 125,000 acres, of which about 25,000 only have yet been planted.



## EXCURSION BY STEAMER TO ROYAN.

In summer, the steamer leaves Bordeaux nearly every morning. We must suppose the bell to have rung, and the usual pushing, driving, and scrambling of porters, passengers, and leave-taking friends, to have at length subsided, and the vessel to be in motion, and ploughing her way through a forest of masts, and floating upon the bosom of the Garonne. On the left is the *Quai des Chartrons*, so called from a convent of *Chartreux* friars, who, when Périgord was devastated by the French troops during the war against the *English* province of Guienne, took refuge in Bordeaux, where a merchant charitably sheltered them in his *chais*, or cellars, situated in this place. On the right is a marshy plain, called the *Queyries*\*, which extends from the bridge as far as Lormont (the birth-place of Richard II.), where we next arrive. This place is said to derive its name from the Latin words *laureus mons*, in consequence of the hill at the foot of which it is situated being planted with laurel. Here was formerly an ancient fortified castle, belonging to the Archbishop of Bordeaux;

\* It is said that the English, when masters of this country, gave this name to the place, in consequence of the stone *quarries* situated beyond. For the wines of Queyries, see p. 152.

and a little further on we may still discern the ruins of another, which is known by the opprobrious name of *Château du Diable*, and about which many fearful ghost-stories are extant.

A little further, on the same side, we next perceive Montferrand, formerly the first barony of the *Borde-lais* territory. Here lives, in tranquil retirement, M. De Peyronnet, one of the ministers of Charles X., who, out of respect, signed those fatal ordinances which caused the downfall of that monarch, and the banishment of his family. We have long passed by the *commune* of Blanquefort on the left, and are now coasting along the bank which bounds successively the vineyards of Ludon and Macau.\*

The land on the right, denominated *Entre-deux-mers*, from its being comprised by the rivers Garonne and Dordogne, now runs to a promontory called the *Bec d'Ambès*, where those rivers effect their junction, and form a grand estuary termed the Gironde, whence the department has derived its name. At a short distance round the point, and situated on the right bank of the Dordogne, is Bourg; an ancient town, founded, or at least inhabited, by one of the forefathers of Saint Paulin of Bordeaux, during the reign of the emperor Valentinian I. That rock of a

\* For a description of these places and their wines, see pp. 156. 158.

conical form, hurled, probably, by some earthquake from the brow of the hill, now serves as a landmark for mariners, who have given it the name of Sugar-loaf, *Pain-de-Sucre*. The French court resided here, in 1650, during the insurrection in Bordeaux; and Louis XIV., then a child, is said to have amused himself by running up and down the streets of Bourg. The ladies who accompanied the queen-regent complained of there being no theatre in the place; and Cardinal Mazarin was angry with the mayor, because there were no sedan chairs to be found in a town where it was impossible to ride in a carriage. The vineyards about Bourg furnished England with claret long before Médoc, the present famous claret country, was planted with vines. Stone quarries abound along this shore, especially at *Roque de Tau*.

If the weather be fine, we may, with the help of a small telescope, discern from here the magnificent suspension-bridge of Cubsac, which spans the Dordogne a few miles above. In the months of August and September, the river about this part becomes very dangerous for small boats, in consequence of a natural phenomenon, termed, in *patois*, the *mascaret*, or water-rat. On the stillest days in those months, a wave, some eight or ten feet high, will suddenly rise, turn about, and, with a crushing rattling noise, rush up the river, following all its windings for miles, and upsetting all the smaller boats, hissing and roar-

ing like some savage monster of the deep. At Cub-sac, it divides into innumerable waves, and advances thus to Caverne. There it stops, and, for a moment, disappears: it seems lost, but it soon re-appears between Asque and Lille. Then it resembles a promontory, rising sometimes to the height of twenty feet. At Tersac it assumes its first form; but, a little further, it bursts into several waves again. Next it swells into a huge mass, and rushes up the Dordogne as far as Fronsac, where it extends majestically across the whole breadth of the river, sometimes far beyond Libourne. This phenomenon is attributed to the violent influx of the tide.\*

Below the *Bec d'Ambès*, two large islands are formed in the middle of the river. The famous *communes* of Labarde, Cantenac, and Margaux, are now on our left, and Blaye, in the distance, on our right. The latter city is of very ancient origin: being mentioned by Ausonius as *Blavia militaris*, a military Roman station. St. Romain, a disciple of St. Martin, was buried here in 389, king Charibert in 570, and the famous Rolland in 800: the sword of the latter, a huge, ponderous weapon, is still shewn here. The citadel, erected on the banks of the Garonne, is flanked with four large bastions, and various defensive out-works, constructed after the plans of Vauban,

\* See *Panorama de la Gironde*, pp. 27, 28.; *Mosaïque du Midi*, &c.

and protected by a wide ditch. Here the Duchess of Berri, arrested at Nantz in 1832 by order of the government, was detained and *confined*. Besides the fortress on the right, there is also a fort, called the *Pâte*, in a small island opposite, and another called the *Fort du Médoc*, on the left bank. We are now passing the most precious vineyards in France, or, perhaps, in the world. That noble mansion on the left is the Château de Beychevelle, the seat of M. P. F. Guestier, to whom the public are indebted for the recently constructed landing-place.\* Behind is the handsome Château of Langoa, and beyond, in every direction, are none but valuable properties; for we are soon abreast of the united parishes of St. Lambert and Pauillac, and the immortal vineyards of *Lafite* and *Latour*.

Opposite Pauillac is the inauspicious island of Patiras, formerly "a scene of cruel sufferings." Here was, in days of yore, the den of the ferocious pirate Monstri, who devastated the plains of Médoc and Saintonge, and was not subdued till after several naval expeditions had been dispatched by the parliament of Bordeaux against him. Here he is said to have tortured and murdered his unfortunate captives, respecting neither age, sex, nor condition; and here, also, in 1320, when the leprosy raged in Bordeaux,

\* For a description of this château and its wines, see p. 171.

many of the sufferers retired to live, or die. To these unfortunate inhabitants we must add the proscribed Jews, who, to avoid judicial death in the city, came into these pestilential regions, exposed to all the horrors of this most terrible scourge of humanity. They were banished upon the idle accusation of poisoning the public fountains. Those who did not fly in time were punished in the following manner: "A vast hole was dug, in which they kindled a great fire, and there burnt *pêle-mêle* hundreds of Jews of both sexes. Many of them, men and women, leaped into the fire, singing, as though they had been going to a marriage-feast; nay, several widows flung their own offspring into the flames, fearing the Christians might kidnap and baptize them."\*

The next place of importance is St. Estèphe, on the left; this place furnishes not only wines of a very good quality, but in a greater abundance than any other *commune* in Médoc: the annual produce being estimated at about 5,000 tuns. Formerly, the *seigneur* of Calon (the best *crû* in St. Estèphe) had the privilege of escorting the Dame de Lesparre into this city, when she made her first entrance there; his perquisites for this polite attention being the palfrey upon which the said lady was mounted.

We are now coasting along the shore of Lower.

\* *Panorama de la Gironde*, p. 17.

Médoc. The famous vineyards are left behind: all those which we now see being, though good, far inferior to the former. Many a hostile fleet, in by-gone ages, filling the inhabitants with awe, has slowly coasted along these shores, covering the broad surface of this splendid estuary with innumerable sails. First, the indefatigable Phœnicians, extending their commerce throughout the world; next, the Normans, in their long light barks with double white sails, bent on pillage, and destroying whatever lay in their course as far as Toulouse; and, lastly, the fleet of Henry III., king of England, who, under pretence of arming and sailing for the Holy Land, ascended the Garonne with a vast fleet, composed of more than six hundred vessels of various dimensions, loaded with the flower of England's chivalry, to aggrandise and uphold his province of Guienne.

The next remarkable place is Castillon, in Lower Médoc. Here it was that the famous old warrior, Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, drew his formidable sword for the last time. In 1452, after the first expulsion of the English, he had landed in Médoc with a body of 4,000 men, carried all before him, and established his head quarters at Bordeaux. He opened the campaign, the following spring, by taking Fronsac. But Charles, king of France, now dispatched his army, composed of 22,000 men, with orders to invest Castillon. Talbot, hastening to its

rescue, defeated, early in the morning, a numerous detachment of the enemy; but the alarm had been given; and the French retired to their entrenchments defended by three hundred pieces of cannon. Yielding to the ardour of his men, Talbot again commanded the assault; and, though many of his followers were blown to atoms, his adversaries were beginning to waver, when the Count de Penthievre, arriving with a body of fresh troops, decided the fate of the battle. The English commander, who had had his horse killed under him, and his leg broken, was dispatched with a bayonet as he lay on the ground: his son perished in endeavouring to save him; a thousand men, who had fought their way into the very fortress, were taken prisoners, and the rest dispersed on all sides.\*

We shortly after leave Begadan and Valeyrac on the left, and perceive Mortaigne at a distance on the right. This place was formerly the seat of a *Châtellenie*, the jurisdiction of which extended over six neighbouring parishes: it was also dignified with the title of principality. It figured much in the civil and religious wars in France between the Protestants and the Catholics; as did also Tallemont, a pretty little town, situated a few miles further on the same bank. At a great distance on the left, we may just perceive the *commune* of Soulac, which extends

\* See Lingard's *History of England*, v. ii. ch. 8.



along the sea-shore to the extremity of Médoc, called *Pointe de Graves*: its territory being washed on one side by the Gironde, and on the other by the ocean. Its little port, Verdun, offers a temporary anchorage for vessels detained by contrary winds. Diviners, formerly in great repute under the name of "Astrologers of Médoc," are still to be met with in this country; though, happily, their credit has been long on the wane.—Not far beyond Soulac is Grayan, near which place Talbot landed with his troops in 1452, as already stated: the place is still termed *Port des Anglots*.\* The old town and church of Soulac, situated about a mile and a half from the present hamlet, no longer exists, having been gradually abandoned by the inhabitants many years ago, and at length entirely swallowed up by the encroaching waves and sands of the ocean. Tradition has even preserved the names of some of its streets.

Our journey is almost at an end; for Royan lies before us. This agreeable bathing-place, situated at the extremity of the department of the Charente-Inférieure, was a remarkable town as early as the second century, being mentioned by Antoninus under the name of *Novioregum*.

Royan figured much during the period of religious

\* *Panorama de la Gironde.*

warfare. The Protestants made it an important place, having fortified and defended it. Louis XIII. besieged it in person; and, as he had much trouble in reducing it, demolished its fortifications. For several years past the sea-baths of this place have been much frequented: physicians prescribing them, as well as those of La Teste\*, as very efficacious. *Sardines*, a species of anchovy, are very plentiful here, and now profitably supersede, in the chief trade of this place, a delicious little fish termed *royan*, formerly taken here in abundance, but which, it seems, has entirely emigrated, being now found only in the neighbourhood of the basin of Arcâchon. There are many delightful walks in the vicinity of this town; and, generally speaking, what has already been said of La Teste, is equally applicable to Royan.

Several times in the week, parties are formed to visit the famous light-house called the *Tour de Cordouan*, six miles distant from this port, and four from the coast of Médoc. This tower is built upon a ridge of rocks. It is about 236 feet high from the floor to the lantern, and 50 feet in diameter at its base. "According to tradition, the rock upon which the tower is built, formed, in ancient times, a part of the continent; which is credible, when we consider the

\* See La Teste, p. 110.

fury of the ocean in these parts, and the extreme mobility of the soil upon the coast of Médoc.”\*

Authors are not agreed as to the period of the first foundation of the Tower of Cordouan; Baurein, in his *Variétés Bordeloises*, attributes it to the Saracens; others to Louis-le-Débonnaire, and others, again, to the English.† However it may be, it is certain that the present edifice dates from 1584, and that it was not finished till 1610, four years after the death of its architect, Louis de Foix. In 1665, it was considerably repaired by the orders of Louis XIV.; and has since then been improved at different periods. The apparatus of the lantern is made to perform a revolution in eight minutes, during which period it is eclipsed eight different times: the light may be seen at a distance of nearly 24 miles. Four men are employed to watch and attend to the fire. Their provisions are taken to them twice a year, and each time enough to last six months; for in winter all communication with the shore is at an end, on account of the violence of the sea; which, in 1777, was known to seize a large block of stone, weighing 48 cwt., and, from a distance of 31 yards, hurl it to a height of six

\* Jouannet, v. i. p. 69.; *Panorama*, p. 7.

† A charta of 1409, mentioned by Rymer, states that the Black Prince had caused a *phare* to be constructed at Cordouan: the question is, whether it was the first.

feet against the wall of the enclosure.\* During the stormy nights of winter, also, innumerable sea birds, attracted from afar by the vivid glare of the beacon, dash themselves madly against its thick glass-plates, and fall dead by hundreds at the foot of the tower.

\* Jouannet, v. l. p. 74. note.

## PART II.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE  
GIRONDE.

THE department of the Gironde, formed of that portion of ancient Guienne more particularly denominated Bordelais, is comprised in the south-west region of France, lying between  $45^{\circ} 9' 35''$  and  $44^{\circ} 9' 48''$  of northern latitude, and  $2^{\circ} 2' 9'$  and  $3^{\circ} 35'$  of western longitude, Paris meridian. It is divided into six districts, or *arrondissements de sous-préfecture*, and sends nine members to the Chamber of Deputies. It is bounded on the north by the department of the Charente-Inférieure, on the south by that of the Landes, on the east by those of the Dordogne and Lot-et-Garonne, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. Its territory is watered by the Garonne, one of the finest rivers in France; which, rising at the foot of the Maladetta, the highest mountain of the Pyrenees, after traversing the departments of Haute-Garonne, Tarn-et-Garonne, and Lot-et-Garonne, flows through the whole of this department also, in a north-west direction, dividing it into two almost equal portions.

The Gironde presents a great variety of surface : being flat, cheerless, and monotonous in the Landes, or the plains nearest the sea, and abounding with agreeable and romantic landscapes in the opposite direction. It is about thirty leagues long and twenty-four broad.

The climate is generally mild and temperate. The thermometer seldom descends below 0 in winter ; in summer it rises to 20° and 25° : the winds are generally from the south-west and north-west quarters. The miasma, exhaled from the marshes exposed to the burning heat of the sun, alone interrupts the general salubrity of this country, which, after all, figures among those that are the most remarkable for longevity.

This department, justly considered as one of the richest in France, from the repute of its wines and the extensive commerce of its principal towns, is perhaps, the one which presents the greatest quantity of sterile or uncultivated land.

Besides the Garonne already mentioned, the plains of the Gironde are also watered by the Dordogne, a fine river, which rising also in the Pyrenees, receives the tributary streams of the *Lot*, the *Tarn*, the *Aveyron*, and the *Arriège*, and being received by the Garonne, at a point called Bec d'Ambes, forms with that river the immense estuary called the Gironde. The other rivers are the *Ille*, which, after receiving

the *Drome*, joins the Dordogne; the *Drot* and the *Ciron*, which flow into the Garonne; the *Moron* and the *Leyre*: of which, the former flows into the Dordogne, and the latter, after receiving the water of the Landes, flows into the basin of Arcâchon.

There are but few lakes: the most considerable is the *étang d'Hourtin*, or de Carcan, situated in the district of Lesparre; another, called the *étang de Lacanau*, a few miles to the south of the former, communicates with it, and also with the basin of Arcâchon, by a chain of smaller lakes or ponds.

The department is said to contain about 2,409,000 acres of land, appropriated, in round numbers, as follows: 345,000 acres for corn; 335,000 for meadows and fallow land; 407,000 for woods and orchards; 264,000 for vineyards; and 900,000 are uncultivated *Landes*. Of the 345,000 acres of agricultural land, there are only about 86,000 of rich earth, called *Palus*: the rest is a light, meagre, and sandy soil. Agriculture, generally speaking, is little understood in this part of France. They sow but very few vegetables; and a vulgar prejudice, pretty general throughout France, prevented them for a long time from cultivating the potatoe, to which they attributed the property of occasioning attacks of epilepsy,

The *Landes*, a part of the country which probably was formerly covered by the ocean, seemed to refuse

every kind of grain excepting rye and millet: the black oak, the maritimal pine, and the mulberry had hitherto been supposed to be the only trees that could flourish in this sterile region. Recent experiments have proved however, that the white oak, the birch and many other trees may thrive in this soil. Meadow land is much neglected; the inhabitants of the country seem to leave the care of it to providence to improve or destroy it.

Much wood is grown, and the pine, especially, is extensively cultivated. Osier and twig are also a profitable and very considerable part of the agriculture of the departments.

It is natural to suppose, from the great reputation of the wines of the Gironde, that this part of agriculture is the best understood. It is so, no doubt; but it is not what it might be. The *Médoc*, *Grave*, and other districts produce, indeed, wines which may safely rival the best in the world; but the extent of these first vineyards bear no proportion to the other lands where the vine is cultivated, and which produce but very inferior wines.

#### SOIL DEVOTED TO THE CULTIVATION OF THE VINES.

“The soil of the Gironde, devoted to the vine, ought to be considered as divided into three distinct classes, based on: 1st. Its geological origin; 2dly. Its particular nature; and, 3dly. The quality of the



wine it produces. These three classes have long been established and known as *Côteaux*, *Graves*, and *Palus*.

“1st. The *Côteaux*, or hills, are the most ancient lands in the department, and, having declivities more or less rapid, are impracticable for any other cultivation than that of the vine. The hills are composed of alternate layers of argillaceous, calcareous, marly, and sandy earth; they are more exempt from mixture, and consequently more unproductive, as we approach the summit. In some places they are argillo-marly, as in the district called *Entre-deux-Mers* (the large portion of land comprised between the Garonne and the Dordogne), and on the right bank of the Dordogne; in others, they are argillo-gravelly, as in the elevated plains of those localities; or light and sandy, as about Bordeaux, Blaye, Cussac, &c. Lastly, they are sometimes almost purely argillous, strong, tenacious, and impregnated with the oxide of iron, as in many parts of *Entre-deux-Mers*.\*

“2dly. The *Graves* are those plains of more or less extent which cover the primary formation, and serve as a transition to modern soils, — to those which the rivers have deposited and are depositing every day. These lands belong to the *diluvium*, and are the result of the transport of impetuous waters; they are com-

\* Jouannet, v. ii. pp. 196, 197.; Wm. Franck, p. 23.

posed, in various proportions, of gravel, sand, *sablon*, or very fine sand, and other elements. They cover, like a cloak, the *plateaux* (elevated plains) and undulating hills among which our valleys wind, and are particularly conspicuous on the left bank of the Garonne, where it occupies an almost uninterrupted zone from Castillon to Langon. The thickness of this layer of gravel varies from a few inches to five or six feet. It is, for the most part, composed of quartz pebbles, round, egg-shaped, and yellow or white, often translucent, and sometimes transparent.\*

“The soil under this gravel is sometimes, but too seldom, of clay; in some places, rock, and more generally pure sand, or the ferruginous formation known in the country by the name of *alios*. These lands, so unfavourable for cultivation in general, seem created on purpose for the vine. One would think that every circumstance of formation, constitution, and situation, had united to exclude every other kind of produce, in order to fix imperiously there the cultivation of the vine, whose produce is so extraordinary as to admit of no comparison in ancient or modern times.”†

3dly. The *Palus* are rich, deep, and fertile lands, which have been deposited by the present rivers

\* Jouannet, v. ii. pp. 196, 197.; Wm. Franck, p. 23.

† Jouannet, v. ii. pp. 196. 214.; Wm. Franck, p. 24.

during their course, being composed of the divers elements of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms.

THE VINE. — MANNER OF PLANTING.

The vine, *vitis vinifera*, was brought by the Phœnicians from Asia-Minor to Greece, whence it gradually extended itself to France. "It had already begun to flourish in several provinces of Gaul, when Domitian, either through ignorance or weakness, ordered all the vines to be plucked up without mercy, in consequence of a season having proved as favourable for wine as miserable for corn. This privation, which dates from the year A. D. 92, lasted two whole centuries. At length, the wise and valiant Probus restored to the Gauls the liberty of replanting the vine. Young plants, again, introduced from Sicily, Greece, Africa, and the Archipelago, became the type of those innumerable varieties of vine which still cover the vineyard hills of France."\* The wines of Aquitania soon became famous; accordingly, we find the poet Ausonius eulogising both the wines and oysters of this province in the same verse: —

"Ostrea . . . . .  
Non laudata minus, nostri quam gloria vini."

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\* Comte de Chaptal: quoted by Wm. Franck, in his *Traité sur les Vins du Médoc*.

The vine is universally a shrub with a tortuous trunk, of a hard wood, and covered with a peeling bark, though cultivation and the diversity of climates have produced an infinite variety. Its branches are long, slender, knotty, striated, and furnished with alternate leaves, often opposed to tendrils, by which they fasten on surrounding bodies; the leaves are large, gracefully scalloped, often dentated, and held by a long firm stalk. The vine blossoms in May; the flowers are very small, odoriferous, and disposed in bunches. If they do not fall off (*couler*), they produce berries of greater or less bulk, and more or less crowded together on the bunch, of a whitish green or a bright or dark red, full of a juice, at first very sour, but rendered sweet by maturity: it is sometimes perfumed. Grapes ripen faster or slower, according to the species, the climate, and the position; and, with care, may be preserved for six months or more, according to the quality of the grapes.

The vine prefers hilly stony ground, with an eastern or southern aspect; and its roots like to penetrate into the crevices of rocks. Uncultivated it produces less; but it lives for ages, and its trunk may acquire a prodigious volume: cultivation in making it more fruitful shortens its life. It is propagated by layers (*provins*) in autumn, by cuttings in the spring, and by young trees (*barboux*) from nursery-grounds.

“Custom has made it a rule,” says Catros\*, “that every cutting should have a little of the wood of the preceding year at the bottom, the better to prevent it from rotting; however, I have succeeded as well in planting the young end. In planting a nursery-ground (*pepinière*, or *barbautière*), it is necessary to be careful in choosing only those slips the wood of which is ripe, and to cut them about 15 or 18 inches in length. We then open a trench about one foot broad, the whole length of the ground to be planted: the depth is proportioned to the quality of the soil: if dry, one foot; if good, six inches; if wet, even less will suffice. The plants are set in this trench, at five or six inches from each other. After planting the first row, another is made at the distance of a foot, and so on, to the end.

“In planting, we endeavour, as much as possible, to have a southern aspect; but this is not always possible, as it is essential to follow the declivity of the ground, for the draining off of water, which is very pernicious to the roots of vines, and even to the quality of the wine, and requires a great deal of underground draining, particularly well understood in Médoc. On hills, however, it is not necessary to follow the declivity.

\* Toussaint-Yves Catros, *Traité Raisonné des Arbres Fruitières*, Bordeaux, 1810: quoted by Jouannet and Wm. Franck.

“The rows should be at different distances, according to the quality of the soil. If meagre and gravelly, three feet is the usual distance, as is the practice throughout Médoc, wherever they cultivate with the ox plough. The vines are planted forty inches apart: this is called planting *en plein*.

“Lands which contain the most pebbles, and have an under-soil of *alios* produce the best qualities of wine. No preparation is required, if the land has already been planted; if waste land, or *Landes*, it is first cleared, manured, and employed for two or three years in growing corn and potatoes.”\*

Mr. Joubert describes the manner of planting a vineyard on the best estates of Pauillac (first *crûs*) in the following terms: — “It consists in turning up the ground; and if the *alios* be too near the surface, they either break it up with pickaxes, which is the best way, or, after having dug the trench eighteen inches deep and three feet wide, they pierce holes through the *alios* with an iron bar, in which they plant the cutting, or *crosette*; after which they add manure and earth transported there for that purpose. These operations being finished, they make another trench, the earth of which serves to fill the former; then they straighten the plants, and, after cutting them at the third knot above ground, tie each of them

\* A. Joubert, *du Médoc: Observations sur la Culture de cette Contrée*; Paris, 1836, p. 13.

with twig or *vime* to the *carasson* or stick which is planted by its side, and to which pine-laths are fixed, so as to form one continual horizontal line, about one foot from the ground. These plantations are made in January, February, and March; sometimes even later.\*

For two or three years young plantations are tilled with the plough six times in the year; thrice to open the furrow, and thrice to cover it up. Vineyards in general are ploughed four times: the first *labour* to loosen the roots, done with a plough called *cabat*, about the 20th of February; the second, in April, is intended to cover up the roots of the vine, for which purpose they use a peculiar plough called *courbe*; the third, done in May, is like the first; and the fourth, like the second, is done with the *courbe*, as soon as the third is finished.†

A weed called *chien-dent*, or dog's grass, is very injurious to the vine; in the months of January and February labourers are employed to examine every row, in order to root it up. In the month of May, the useless branches, called *bois gourmand*, are carefully cut off; but some are reserved for layers. In July they thin the leaves and smaller branches, that the air may circulate more freely, and that the *verjus*,

\* Jouannet, *Statistique de la Gironde*, v. ii. p. 223.; Joubert, p. 14.

† Jouannet, Joubert, Wm. Franck, *passim*.

or young grapes, may the better receive the solar rays. As the vines are seldom more than fifteen inches high, and the young grapes are liable, for that reason, to be covered over by the earth thrown by the last plough, women and children are employed to pass down the rows of vines to extricate such branches and expose them to the sun. Every four or five years, also, the proprietors take care to have the moss taken off the vines, for it harbours insects and fosters their eggs. This should be done after the frosty weather.\*

The vine produces at the age of five years; at ten or twelve, it has acquired its full vigour; and the care it receives, the nature of the soil, and especially the cutting, decide as to its duration. The latter operation takes place in the month of October, at the fall of the leaves, and ought to be finished before the frosty weather: it is the most difficult part of the culture, and requires a judicious and experienced workman.† In the canton of Pauillac there are vines said to be two hundred years old, and still good; whilst others are perishing at the age of fifty. In a sandy or gravelly soil, without much humidity, they will be of long duration; and some vines are shown at Pessac, which, if we may believe tradition, date from the fourteenth century, having been planted by

\* Jouannet, *passim*; Joubert, p. 22.

† *Ibid.* p. 17.



Clement V. The average duration of the vine, however, is stated to be from a hundred to a hundred and fifty years.

The only casual evil to which the vine is exposed is hail; which, though uncommon in Pauillac, has frequently devastated immense estates. There are but few instances of injury done by the spring and autumnal frosts; but fogs, followed by warm weather, are highly pernicious, causing the blossoms to wither and fall.

There are also three kinds of insects which make considerable ravages among the vines: the *escargots*, or snails; the *puceron* or *barbot*, a small golden-coloured beetle; and the *attelabus Bacchus*, a most destructive insect that nips off the blossoms. These insects are carefully picked up, and burnt outside the vineyard.\*

#### BEST SPECIES OF VINES, RED AND WHITE.

##### *Red Vines.*

About a dozen different species of red vines are cultivated in Médoc; of which the four following are the most famous.

1. The *Carmenet*, or *petite Vidure*, has smooth leaves, slightly dentated; its berries are round, middling-

\* Jouannet, v. ii. p. 215—217.; Joubert, p. 26.

sized, and not very close together, of a brilliant and rather dark colour. It produces a fine, light, agreeable, and perfumed wine, of a clear colour.

2. The *Carmenère*, or *grosse Vidure*, called also *grand Carmenet*, *Carbonet*, or *Sauvignon*, has larger berries than the former; its bunches, also, are both longer and larger; its grapes are of a bright colour, and exquisite taste, but subject to the *coulure* or blight. Its produce is of the same quality as that of the *Carmenet*, but of a deeper colour. These two species are almost the only ones grown on certain privileged estates.

3. The *Petit Verdot* and the *Gros Verdot*, have the same qualities, only the berries of the latter are larger; their leaves are of a dull pale green, and plentifully furnished with tendrils; their bunches short, and composed of small grapes of a bright red colour, and delicate taste, but which are slow in ripening: they produce a firm, perfumed wine, of a splendid colour, which keeps well.

4. The *Malbeck*, or *noir de Pressac*, is known by its long bunches and oval grapes, very dark and wide apart; its leaf smooth, large, and round, grows red in September; its wood is of a greyish colour. This vine is subject to the *coulure*. It produces, abundantly, a very ripe wine of little strength, but of a fine colour, which becomes delicate as it grows old,

but which is inclined to turn acid if it be not properly attended to, and kept in a fresh cellar.\*

These four species of vines abound in the most valuable estates of Médoc, where we also occasionally meet with the *Tarney*, which ripens quickly, and produces a wine of a ruby colour; its grapes are black and have a fine skin; its leaves are smooth and *tri-lobed*; and its wood weak and straggling.

The other less important vines are: the *Merlot*, a vigorous plant, with fine velvet-black grapes, which ripen early, and produce a wine which is excellent when mixed with the *Verdot* or the *Carmenet*. The *Mancin*, of a brown wood, and producing large, round grapes, which give plenty of wine of an inferior quality; the *Teinturier*, with reddish leaves, white underneath, round close grapes, short bunch, of a very dark colour and a very sweet taste, producing a weak wine, of a high colour, but which has a disagreeable taste of the soil; the *Pelouille*, known by large, pale-coloured grapes and bunches, a whitish leaf, with much wood and tendrils, gives a common, flat, and colourless wine; the *Petite Chalosse Noire*, with very large oblong grapes and very big bunches, used for dessert, produces a common, flat, but durable wine of a fine colour; the *Cruchinet*, the grapes of which are round, pulpy, and of an agreeable taste, forming fine

\* Jouannet, v. ii. p. 225.; Franck, p. 34.

large bunches, yield but common wine, which, however, keeps well; the *Cioutat*, remarkable only for its parsley-shaped leaves; the *Pied de Perdrix*, of brown wood, with long bunches of loose grapes, which have an agreeable taste, but produce only common wine; and, lastly, the *Balouzat*, of red wood, with large round grapes, which ripen quickly, and are agreeable to the palate, yields abundantly a middling wine of some body and a dark colour, with a peculiar, but not disagreeable, taste of the soil.\* Several proprietors have used plants from Hermitage; but the change does not seem to have made any advantageous alteration in the quality of the produce.

#### *White Vines.*

The vines which produce the most famous white wines are planted in *joualles*; that is, a considerable space is left between the rows, double or single, which is employed for corn or vegetables: they are also set about three feet from each other. The cultivation of these vines is generally the same as that in Médoc: the plants in the best vineyards being set in holes made with the bar, and ploughed with oxen. The following are the names of the most esteemed white vines.

1. The *Sauvignon*, of a yellowish or greyish brown-

\* Jouannet, v. ii. p. 224.; Wm. Franck, p. 34.

spotted wood, with dentated leaves of a dark green colour; its well furnished bunches are composed of grapes of an oblong form and an amber colour, highly esteemed for dessert; the wine it produces has much perfume, but is rather heady.\*

2. The *Semilion*, of a reddish flat wood, pale leaf, and well furnished bunch, with round large grapes of a golden colour and very delicate flavour.

3. The *Rochalin* somewhat resembles the *Sauvignon*, but its leaves are larger, and the flavour of its grapes less delicate; it ripens late, and fears the frost.

4. The *Verdot*, of a yellowish brown wood, with large thick dark-coloured leaves, middling-sized bunches, small grapes, and a very fine flavour; this plant also ripens late.

5. The *Blanc-doux*, of a greyish wood, with fine green dentated leaves, and delicious, transparent, brown-spotted grapes.

6. The *Prueras*, with large savoury grapes, gives much wine; it has thick leaves of a dead-green colour.

\* It is now generally understood that the Sauvignon is the basis of the best white wines, and that Yquem, St. Crú, owes its superiority chiefly to this plant. This has, in some measure, been proved by the success of the proprietor of *La Tour Blanche*, who, for the last thirty years, has been replanting the whole of his estate with this species of grape, whereby he has brought it almost on a par with Yquem. It is said that the grape in question, under another name, is also the principal cause of the excellency of the Rhenish wines, and especially of Joannesberg.

Those which produce the common white wines are: the large *Chalosse Blanche*, with big long bunches of oblong, detached grapes, yielding a flat wine of a fine colour; the *Pique-poux* or *Enragent*, with very big bunches of large close grapes, giving much wine of a brilliant colour; the *Blanquette*, with very long bunches of small loose grapes, producing much common wine; and, lastly, the *Blayais*, which differs little from the *Blanquette*, only its produce is still more common.

#### VINTAGE; AND THE PROCESS OF MAKING WINES.

On the best estates in Médoc, they generally begin the vintage in the first fortnight of September. If the season seem favourable, they wait till the grapes and the soil are dry, and the weather sufficiently constant to allow the work to begin without any fear of interruption.

The vintagers are disposed in the following manner. The women and children are employed to cut off the grapes. They ought to reject and pick away whatever is defective, unripe, parched, or rotten: one cutter is allotted to every row of vines, and the grapes thus cut are put into baskets. For every eight rows of vine there are two carriers of *bastes*, or buckets,

thirty or thirty-two of which make a *charge*, or load, which again is composed of two small tubs, called *donilles*, placed on a cart. A carrier, termed a *vide-panier*, receives the basket of every vintager, as soon as it is full, and empties it into the bucket, which is carried on the back of another, to be emptied into the tubs placed in the cart. A *commandant*, or inspector, is set over every twelve *réges*\*, whose duty is to hasten the cutters, and to see that they do not forget any of the grapes. When the two tubs on the cart are full, the *bouvier*, or ox-driver, conveys the load to the *cuvier*, a spacious outhouse, where the wine is made.†

When the tubs have arrived in the *cuvier*, they are received by four or five men, who empty their contents into the *pressoir*, or wine-press, which is made either of wood or stone, and composed of four sides, sixteen inches high, and joined at right angles, having a bottom of nine square feet: this press is about two feet from the ground, and slightly inclines towards the front. The men next scrape the grapes off the stalks: this is done either with rakes, or by rubbing the bunches on a wire sieve. The stalks having been carried away into another press to drain, the grapes are thrown into a heap, and trodden by the men, who,

\* A *rége* means a furrow: it is here a measure of 100 feet long and one foot broad.

† Jouannet, v. ii. p. 235.

bare legged, and following each other, tread round the base of the heap till the whole is gradually levelled and crushed. Some proprietors are averse to the *foulage*, or treading of grapes: confining the operation to the *égrappage*, or scraping the grapes from the stalks, they instantly pour the fruit entire into the vat. While this operation is being performed, a hole in the front of the press allows the *moût*, or juice, to escape into a tub, called *gargouille*. The men empty this juice into long buckets, termed *comportes*, which are traversed near the top by a long stick, for the purpose of being carried by two men, who pour the juice into the *cuves* or vats.\* It is usual to fill these vats only to within fifteen inches of the top; otherwise there would be a risk of losing much wine at the time of fermentation.

#### THE PROCESS OF MAKING WINE.

The tubs, vats, wine-presses, and all the other utensils employed in making wine, are carefully prepared beforehand, by being frequently washed in fresh water to prevent any bad smell; and the day

\* Two proprietors, Messrs. Phelan and Delbos, to whom gold medals have been awarded by the Agricultural Society, have altered their *cuviers* by the introduction of machinery, at a considerable outlay, and thereby have brought the *pressoir* on a level with the cuve or vat. The saving both of time and wine is said to be great.



before the vintage every thing is well drained, dried, and afterwards sponged with brandy of the best quality; the *barriques*, or casks, are likewise well washed some days before with hot water, and immediately set to drain. In general, proprietors leave their wine in the *cuve* for ten or twelve days; but sometimes longer: this depends on the temperature of the atmosphere, and the greater or less maturity of the vintage. The process is known to be completed when there is no longer any apparent fermentation, and the wine begins to cool: before charging the vats they place a spigot in them about three feet above the base, by which they are enabled to follow the different degrees of the process.\*

Careful proprietors generally make two or three species of wines. The first is the produce of the grapes of the old vines, and of such as are well exposed to the sun: the second is composed of the produce of vines situated in a wet soil, or in a bad position: the third is made with the dregs of the vats and the produce of the skins, which, after having been pressed, serve to make what is called *piquette*.

The wine is put into casks in the following manner: the hogsheads having been all arranged in the *chai*, or cellar, they draw off the wine from one of the vats, letting it run from the spigot through a wire-sieve into a sort of half-tub, called *gargouille*: a man

\* Jouannet, v. ii. pp. 236—238.

is placed to watch the running, and to turn the spigot as soon as the wine seems foul. It is instantly poured into buckets, and from them into the casks in such a way as to give an equal quantity of this first vat to all the hogsheads that they reckon they shall be able to fill with the whole produce of the vintage. In serving the casks they take care to begin first at one end of the cellar, and then at the other, alternately, in order that the quality may be the same throughout.

When all the wine has been taken from the *gargouille*, they open the spigot, and draw the rest, called *fond de cuve*, which is generally mixed with the wines produced from the skins.

Lastly, they put the stalks as well as the skins, into the press, and every three or four days pour water upon them to make the *piquette*, the beverage of the peasants and labourers: for this *piquette* to be good, it ought not to exceed in quantity the third of the wine.\*

In winter the best temperature for vines is light frosty weather: at a few degrees below freezing point the vine does not suffer: if there has not been any abundant rains before the frost, it may be said to do good, inasmuch as it destroys the insects. During spring mild, damp weather is the most propitious: heavy rains not only retard the labours of the vineyard, but cause the snails to multiply in a surprising

\* *Ibid.*; Joubert, pp. 32, 33.

manner. The end of spring and the beginning of summer, ought to be dry without too much heat: this is the season of blossoms. The rest of the summer ought to be pretty warm: light occasional showers are of the greatest necessity, especially immediately after the bloom, and at the time when the grapes change colour. For these showers to be beneficial, they ought to be followed by cloudy weather, if they happen during the day, for after the bloom, day-rains succeeded by a burning sun, blacken the young grapes and make them fall (*couler*). When the fruit is changing colour, also, such rains scald it or dry it up completely; and scalded grapes make very bad wine. The beginning of autumn ought to be dry and warm: heavy and abundant rains cause the sap to re-ascend. Towards the end of autumn, a few slight frosts are useful; they hasten the fall of the leaves, and thus favour the cutting and trimming.

Fogs, followed by a burning sun, are very pernicious. Unfortunately, they are rather frequent, and may be attributed to the neighbouring river and marshes. If the fog clear up and the weather become rainy or cloudy, the grapes are not injured: but if it be followed by very warm weather, the damage is very great. The same thing happens when the dew is succeeded by a burning sun.\*

\* Jouannet, v. ii. pp. 215—217; Joubert, pp. 25. 27; and Franck, pp. 46, 47.

## THE SIX WINE DISTRICTS.

The department is, as we have already said, divided into six districts or arrondissements; namely, those of Bordeaux, Lesparre, Libourne, La Réole, Bazas, and Blaye; of which the two former are by far the most celebrated, on account of the fame of their produce.

## ARRONDISSEMENT OF BORDEAUX.

This district is bounded on the north by that of Lesparre, on the south by that of Bazas and the department of the Landes, on the east by the districts of Libourne and La Réole, and on the west by the ocean. Its soil is very diversified; being sandy in some parts, having a gravelly calcareous soil upon the hills, and rich land on the banks of the rivers. Its produce varies according to the nature of the soil; consisting of wines, wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, hay, vegetables, fruits, wood, and osier: it possesses also fine quarries of hard stone (at Langovian, La Roque, &c.), principally situated along the right bank of the Garonne. It contains 247,748 inhabitants, and about 1,034,000 acres; 91,000 of which are devoted to the cultivation of the vine.

*Côte Wines.*

A ridge of high hills, extending along the right bank of the Garonne, from the parish of Ambarès, in the canton of Carbon-Blanc, as far as the arrondissement of La Réole, produces wines known by the name of *vins des côtes*. They are considered good ordinary wines, rather than fine wines. Their qualities differ according to the diversity of position, soil, and vines. In general, they are strong and highly coloured, but sometimes rough and sharp; they improve, however, with age. They are exported to Brittany, Normandy, Holland, and the ports of the Baltic. Among *côte* wines are also included those of the vineyards along the Dordogne, from the arrondissement of Blaye as far as Fronsac; these are reckoned ordinary wines, excepting those of Saint Gervais, Saint André de Cubsac, Saint Romain, Cadillac, Saint Germain, and Saint Aignan, which produce mellow, agreeable wines, of a lively colour.

Basseins and Cenon produce the best *vins des côtes*; they are especially remarkable for their fine colour. Those of Floirac, Bouillac, and Latresne are inferior to the former, having a flavour of the soil. The wines of Camblanes and Quinsac are compared to those of Basseins; they have, however, more body and colour, but also rather more roughness.

Carignan, Cambes, Baurech, Tabanac, Le Tourne, Langovian, Paillet, Rions, Bequey, Cadillac, Loupiac, Sainte Croix du Mont, Créon, Verdelet, and Targon, produce but little red wine, of a pretty good colour, but of an ordinary quality, having a taste of the soil.

### *Palus Wines.*

The Latin term *Palus* is given to those wines which are produced from the clayey marshy soil on the banks of the rivers Garonne and Dordogne : these red wines are justly appreciated.

*First Class.*—The first of these wines are those of the *Queyries*, a tongue of land on the right bank of the river, opposite Bordeaux, where a magnificent crescent is formed by the port. The wines of the *Queyries* rank immediately after the distinguished *Médoc* and *Grave* estates : they are rich, generous, coloured, slow in forming, and of a firm character. They are especially esteemed for their *bouquet*, which has a very decided raspberry perfume : when very old, they are excellent : they improve also by long voyages.

They are successfully used to mix with and strengthen the weaker *Médoc* wines ; but since *Hermitage*, *Roussillon*, and *Benicarlo* have become plentiful in the Bordeaux market, the *Queyries* have been neglected. The merit of these wines is ascribed to

the exclusive cultivation of the Verdot vine, the best marsh grape, in the vineyards of the first class. These vines are exposed more than others to spring frosts and blights, occasioned by fogs from the river.

The price of the tun is from 6*l.* to 8*l.* for common wines\*, and from 8*l.* to 10*l.* for the best *Queyries* and *Montferrand*. According to M. Jouannet, ten acres yield on an average fifteen tuns, at 160 francs each, or the sum total of 96*l.*; from which he deducts 80*l.* 12*s.* for contributions, labourers, vintages, casks, and various other usual expenses, leaving a net profit of 15*l.* 8*s.* on the ten acres.

Besides these, there are other properties of a secondary class of *Queyries*. *Montferrand* and *Basseins* also afford wines which have much colour and body; they are generally the produce of the *gros* and *petit Verdot*, and are worth about 2*l.* per tun less than those of the *Queyries*.

## MÉDOC — CLARET WINES.

The country called Médoc begins at the bridge called *Aiguelongue*, seven miles N. W. of Bordeaux, beyond the parish of Blanquefort, which it separates from that of Ludon, and forms that portion of the department

\* Till 1825 the price of the tun was from 10*l.* to 14*l.* for common wines, and from 14*l.* to 22*l.* for the best wines of *Montferrand* and *Queyries*; but since then it has dwindled to from 6*l.* to 8*l.* for the common, and from 8*l.* to 15*l.* for the best.

which is comprised between the Gironde and the gulf of Gascony. Its shape is a triangle, or rather a cone, the base of which extends from Blanquefort to La Teste, a distance of nearly forty miles ; it is divided into Upper and Lower Médoc.

Médoc is a vast plain, diversified near the banks of the Garonne by hillocks, which produce the best wine. These hillocks are covered with a light soil, mixed with a great number of flint stones of an oval form and a greyish white colour. At the depth of two or three feet is a red ferruginous kind of earth, dry and compact, mixed with some flint. The second quality of the soil of the vineyards is a quick gravelly sand. At half a yard from the surface, they find, in some parts, a bottom of clay or potter's earth ; in others, dead sand. No soil can be more varied in its quality and produce. There are many parishes which produce abundantly, whilst the adjacent ones are very poor, nay, in the same field many patches are quite sterile, whilst others are extremely productive. It is the same with the quality and value of the wines. Many an estate, the wines of which are set down as first-rate, comprises strips of land belonging to another proprietor whose wines are less esteemed, though the nature of the soil seems to be the same.

Generally, the vines are kept very low, twelve inches being about the average height of the plant from the ground. They produce seldom more than half a tun per acre. The ground is meagre and arid.



The proprietors, in order to preserve the reputation and quality of their wines, are accustomed to renew their plants only by tenths, because the vine produces delicate wines only when its roots have penetrated rather deeply into the ground, and when it is old and flourishing enough to contract the flavour of the soil.\*

The principal vines grown on the Médoc estates are, as already stated, the *Carmenet*, the *Carmenère*, the *Malbeck*, and the *Verdot*. Their produce ought to possess a beautiful colour, a violet perfume, much delicacy, and an extremely agreeable flavour; they should be strong without being heady, comforting without intoxicating, leaving the breath pure and the mouth cool. Sea voyages improve them, especially such as are of an inferior quality; they also become finer as they grow old. Their duration is from six to twelve years†; after which period their excellency generally declines.

The expense of cultivating a *prix-fait*, or eight acres, containing in all 24,000 roots of vine, and producing six tuns of wine worth 120*l.*, is about 78*l.*; which leaves consequently 42*l.* clear profit on the eight acres.

*Blanquefort — Upper Médoc,*

About five miles to the west of Bordeaux. This

\* So very careful are the proprietors of Latour in this respect that they renew only the fortieth plant.

† Jouannet, pp. 214—241; Wm. Franck, pp. 59—62; Joubert, *passim*.

commune has been placed by courtesy in Médoc. It was formerly famous for its white wine; but as this no longer enjoys the same celebrity, the proprietor has planted his estate with red vines. Its soil is a bottom of red and white gravel, mixed in some places with clay and sand. The ruins of its famous castle still exist.

Blanquefort produces from 1000 to 1200 tuns of wine, of which from 350 to 500 are white wines, called *vins blancs de Graves*: these are reckoned good, dry, mellow, and agreeable, possessing more body than the generality of the *Grave* white wines. The red wines are of an intermediate quality; they are generally free from the earthy taste that predominates in some of the wines produced from the hills and low grounds. They have a fine colour and a *bouquet*, which is slow in developing.\* This parish contains 2050 inhabitants.

#### *Ludon.*

This *commune* is about five and a half miles from Blanquefort, seven from Bordeaux, and fifteen from Castelnau. It produces only red wines of a good quality: they have more colour and flavour than those of Macau, and far surpass the red wines of Blanquefort in mellowness and *bouquet*. This parish possesses a fourth *crú*, La Lagune. These wines are suf-

\* Jouannet; Wm. Franck, v. ii. p. 137.

ficiently developed to be bottled when they are six or seven years old. This parish contains 1050 inhabitants, and produces from 350 to 500 tuns of wine. Formerly, the *seigneur* of Ludon alone enjoyed the right of embarking his merchandize at this port, the inhabitants being obliged to embark theirs at Macau.

### *Le Taillan.*

This parish, like Blanquefort, is not properly Médoc. It produces from 500 to 700 tuns of red wine, besides from 150 to 200 tuns of white. The red wines are wanting neither in lightness nor delicacy; but they do not rank higher than common Médoc. As the soil of *Haut-Taillan* is very stony, several proprietors had planted some famous white vines in it, and had obtained a very advantageous result; but as the sale of white wines has become difficult, this kind of cultivation has been almost entirely abandoned. The parish contains 980 inhabitants, and is about five miles from Bordeaux.

### *Le Pian*

Affords wines of good quality, which nearly equal those of Ludon. The proprietors export them almost every year to Holland, where they are known and sold as *vins de Ludon*. The vineyards are situated upon a gravelly elevated plain. The parish contains

650 inhabitants, produces from 300 to 400 tuns of wine, and is about eight miles from Bordeaux.

*Parempuyre.*

This *commune* is enclosed on the south by Blanquefort, on the east by the Garonne, on the north by Ludon, and on the west by Le Pian. Its territory comprises marshy and good gravelly soils, and furnishes some 200 or 250 tuns of wine, much esteemed in Holland. It has 600 inhabitants, and is about eight miles from Bordeaux.

*Arsac.*

Part of this *commune* produces wines which have some body, a fine colour, and an agreeable *bouquet*, and somewhat resemble those of Cantenac: it produces from 200 to 300 tuns of wine, and contains about 670 inhabitants. Arsac is about eleven miles from Bordeaux. The Château du Tertre (Mr. C. Henri) produces an excellent wine, much esteemed in Holland.

*Macau.*

This *commune* is situated in a plain, two-thirds of which are gravelly (*graves*), and the other marshy (*palus*). Its wine is neither so agreeable to the palate, nor so mellow as that of Ludon, and it has less flavour than that of Labarde. Having much

colour, and some body, it is often used to mix with thin weak wines to give them firmness. Macau produces on an average from 700 to 800 tuns of *grave* red wine, and about 2000 tuns of *palus* wine, the latter of course being much inferior to the other. It is nearly ten miles from Bordeaux, and contains 1600 inhabitants.

*Labarde.*

This small *commune* of Médoc is bounded on the north by Cantenac, on the south and east by Macau and its dependencies, and on the west by Arsac. Its territory, in which a gravelly and sandy soil predominates, produces a vine superior to that of Macau: it is remarkable for its body, colour, and *bouquet*; it is full of flavour, and becomes mellow with age. Labarde contains 300 inhabitants, produces from 250 to 400 tuns of wine, and is about 10 miles from Bordeaux. Its best *crú* is *Giscours* (Promis), a delicate perfumed wine. This château, in the Italian style, was built in 1837. The view from the terrace is magnificent. A majestic oak, the trunk of which measures twenty-two feet in circumference at the base, stands within the garden.\*

\* I measured this fine tree; but I quote entirely from memory.

*Cantenac.*

This parish, so remarkable for the excellence of its wines, is bounded on the north by that of Margaux, on the south by the *commune* of Arsac, on the east by the Gironde and the parish of Labarde, and on the west by that of Avensan. Its soil is a very good *grave*, and extremely pebbly. Here we find a second *crú*, gorse, and several third and fourth *crús*: Kirwan, Issan, Boyd, or Brown, Calon, Poujets, De Bourran or Lynch. Its wines have an excellent flavour, and are, consequently, considered as vying with those of the best parishes in Médoc, both in perfume and mellowness, by which they are particularly distinguished: they have, moreover, both body and colour, and an agreeable aroma. The parish contains 850 inhabitants, produces from 1,000 to 1200 tuns of wine, and is about 12 miles from Bordeaux.

*Margaux.*

This famous parish is bounded on the north by that of Soussans, on the south by Cantenac, on the west by Avensan, and on the east by the Gironde. It formerly possessed a *port*, or landing place, which the alluvies of the river has now filled up.

Its soil is gravelly, and mixed with a great number of flints, presenting a flinty bed or layer, the thickness of which is very unequal, being at one time of only a few inches, and at another of from ten to

twelve yards. In many places it is very thin, and confounded with the *alios*; its greatest thickness is near the river. Margaux produces the most esteemed wines in the country. It is here we find the famous first *crû*, so well known by the name of *Château-Margaux*, and three second *crûs*, Rauzan, Durfort, and Lascombe\*; besides several third and fourth, such as Malescot, Bekker, Dubignon, Desmirail, Ferrière, Segueineau, &c. At the *château* they make, on an average (from 216 acres of ground), about a hundred tuns of wine; of which eighty are of the first quality, and the rest is allotted to the second class. These wines, when arrived at maturity, and the produce of a year favourable to the vine, are possessed of much fineness, a beautiful colour, and a very sweet *bouquet*, which perfumes the mouth; they are strong without being intoxicating; invigorate the stomach without affecting the head, and leave the breath pure and the mouth cool. Their reputation extends throughout Europe: they are, especially, highly valued in England, where they enjoy a decided preference. At the end of three or four years they are ready for bottling. *Château-Margaux* is now the property of the heirs of Aguado, the well-known banker, and is let on a lease of ten years to

\* "It is right to mention that this domain possesses old vines and very good *cépages*, upon a valuable land. Its wines, by their superior qualities, may vie with those of *Château Margaux*."—*Le Producteur, Journal de la Propriété, Vignoble de la Gironde*, No. Ap. 4. 1838.

the following merchants of Bordeaux, who have each one-fifth of the produce: Barton and Guestier, N. Johnston and Sons, Widow Delbos and Son, Clozman and Co., and Cruze and Hirschfeld. The lease will expire in 1853.

Margaux contains 1030 inhabitants, produces from 1000 to 1200 tuns of wine, and is about 13 miles from Bordeaux.

*Soussans.*

Though very near Margaux, the produce of Soussans does not enjoy the great celebrity which that parish has acquired. Indeed its soil is less favourable for the cultivation of the vine. Its wines have a fine colour, strength, and a very good flavour; but they are somewhat harsh, which prevents the development of their qualities before the sixth year. The north, and Holland in particular, import much of this wine, which improves by the voyage. Soussans is about 14 miles from Bordeaux: it contains about 900 inhabitants, and produces from 800 to 1000 tuns of wine.

*Avensan.*

The wines of Avensan have some affinity with those of Moulis, having colour, body, and an agreeable *bouquet*. They are fit for bottling after five or six years. Avensan, though very extensive, has but a small part of its ground devoted to the cultivation



of the vine; and, in some estates, the vineyards have been neglected or abandoned. It is 14 miles from Bordeaux, contains 1040 inhabitants, and produces from 250 to 325 tuns of wine. The virtuous *Archbishop of Bordeaux, Pey Berland*, was born at a hamlet in this parish.

*Castelnau.*

Though situated behind that of Margaux, Castelnau produces, for the most part, only wines of a very middling quality: they are generally rather flat, and void of perfume. Some estates contiguous to the *communes* of Listrac and Moulis afford, however, wines of indisputable merit. The parish contains 1211 inhabitants, produces from 300 to 400 tuns of wine, and is about 16 miles from Bordeaux. Diligences to Castelnau are much better than those to Pauillac: a proof of the evils of monopoly. After Lesparre and Blanquefort, Castelnau was formerly the most considerable seigniory in Médoc.

*Moulis.*

The wines of this *commune* are endowed with body, *bouquet*, and a fine colour: they are generally exported for the north. Its soil is in some places of an argillomary character; whilst in others there are gravelly lands planted with low-stemmed vines. The village of Poujan produces the best wines of this *commune*.

The parish contains 900 inhabitants, produces from 400 to 500 tuns of wine, and is about 16 miles from Bordeaux.

*Listrac.*

This parish is placed behind that of Lamarque. The wines of this place have most of the qualities of those of Moulis; they are not wanting in strength; and possess both colour and *bouquet*, but they are not quite exempt from harshness; a defect which a voyage tends to diminish. They, accordingly, suit Holland and the north of Europe. 1760 inhabitants; 600 to 800 tuns; 19 miles from Bordeaux.

*Arcins.*

Its wines are less harsh than those of Soussans, but they have neither so much colour nor so fine a *bouquet*. 300 inhabitants; 400 to 500 tuns; 16 miles from Bordeaux.

*Lamarque.*

This place is situated in the centre of *Haut-Médoc*. It furnishes wines with the qualities of those of Arcins, but more mellow and of a finer colour. The greater part of these light aromatic wines is exported for the north. Its soil is gravelly, and reposes on the *alios*. 800 inhabitants; 700 to 800 tuns of wine; 19 miles from Bordeaux.

*Cussac.*

The parish of Saint-Gemme has been annexed to that of Cussac. They produce wines which are reckoned superior to those of Lamarque; being more aromatic, and having more strength and mellowness. They both require to be kept six years in the cask before they acquire their full development. 1040 inhabitants; 800 to 1000 tuns;  $17\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Bordeaux.

## GRAVE RED WINES.

This name is given to the wines produced on the gravelly lands which extend on one hand about eight miles to the south, and on the other, about six miles to the west of Bordeaux.

The delicate *Grave* wines, which sometimes are worthy to vie with those of *Médoc*, are the produce of the *Merlot* vine, of three sorts of *Carmenet*, of the *Verdot*, the *Gourdoux* or *Malbeck*, the *Balouzet* or *Mouzane*, and the *Massoutet*. They generally surpass the *Médoc* wines in body, and are also more vinous, and have a higher colour; but, on the other hand, they are excelled by them in *bouquet*, sap and flavour. *Grave* wines should not be bottled till they have remained some six or eight years in the cask, a period determined by the temperature of the year which produced them. Their duration is extraordinary, and

after twenty years are often found to have lost no part of their excellent quality.

*Red Wines of Graves.*

In this soil one *journal* or acre produces three hogsheads of wine, worth 12*l.* the tun; accordingly, the three hogsheads being worth 9*l.*, and the average expenses being calculated at 8*l.*, the acre is found to produce the value of 1*l.*

About Bordeaux the *graves* yield only two and a quarter hogsheads of wine per acre.

*Mérignac.*

The soil is variable; the vine occupies the gravelly elevations.

According to Franck the red wines of Mérignac are agreeable, *coulant*, and smooth. In good years, age imparts to them a mellowness and an agreeable *bouquet*; they are bottled at the end of four or five years. 3276 inhabitants; 800 to 1000 tuns; 4 miles from Bordeaux.

*Gradignan.*

It produces ordinary wines similar to the common wines of Mérignac. 1277 inhabitants; 500 to 600 tuns of wine; 6 miles from Bordeaux.

*Pessac.*

Pessac has Mérignac on the north, Gradignan and Canejan on the south, Talence on the west, and the

Landes of Ilac on the east. Its wines have a brilliant colour, and more body than those of Médoc, but they differ from them in having rather less *bouquet*, richness and delicacy. The first *crû* of this excellent *Grave* parish is that of *Château Haut-Brion*, situated about one and a half mile to the south-west of Bordeaux. The wine of this *château* was formerly\* considered equal to either of the three first *crûs* of Médoc. It ought not to be bottled till it has been six or seven years in the cask; whereas those of the three other first *crûs* are ripe at the end of five years. The other vineyards, such as La Mission, Pape Clement, &c., yield wines that are rich in good years, and particularly full-flavoured. 1808 inhabitants; 1000 to 1500 tuns of wine; 4 miles from Bordeaux.

### *Talence.*

It is adorned with fine country houses, and situated in an agreeable and healthy position. The vineyards of *Haut-Talence* yield fine wines, in species and quality like those of the second and third *crûs* of Pessac; many of them have much body and firmness: they are fit for bottling at the end of five or six years.

\* This wine had greatly fallen in estimation: however, in 1844, it was sold at 3000 francs per tun, when Mouton and other second growths sold at above 2600 francs, and a portion of Lafite at 4500 francs.

One of the handsomest places at Talence was built by a member of the Sandilands and Ainsley family, some of whom have been buried in the place. It now belongs to D. Guestier of Bordeaux. 1280 inhabitants; 800 to 900 tuns of wine;  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from Bordeaux.

*Léognan.*

This parish, one of the best *Graves*, produces wines that are firmer than those of Méridnac; they possess more body and colour, but have less smoothness. Those which are produced on low grounds are reproached with having a slight taste of the soil: they keep a long time and acquire a good quality from age or long voyages. Formerly, the trade gave them the preference for Ireland; but now, they are exported to the north. The cultivation of white wines at Léognan is less important than it was. 1800 inhabitants; 700 to 900 tuns of red wine, and 250 tuns of white; 6 miles from Bordeaux.

*Villenave d'Ornon.*

The situation of this parish is on the left bank of the Garonne; it affords red wines which differ much as to quality, according as the vineyards are near Léognan and Bègles or the river. These wines have generally less body, and taste more of the soil than

those of Léognan. Some of them are light, agreeable to the taste, and much appreciated by the Dutch. But this *commune* is indebted for its fame to the excellent quality of its white wines. The *crú* named *Carbonnieux* used to enjoy a well-deserved reputation. 1300 inhabitants; 450 to 500 tuns of red wine, and 400 tuns of white; 5 miles from Bordeaux.

## SMALL RED WINES OF GRAVES.

The following parishes, situated to the south of Bordeaux, afford wines known by the appellation of *Petits vins rouges de Graves*; they are generally common wines, though some improve by age.

*Martillac* produces about 800 tuns of white, and 250 tuns of a red wine that has some body and a pretty good colour, but hard and common.

*Saint Médard d'Eyrac* furnishes 250 tuns of white wine and the same number of red; the white, formerly esteemed in Holland, are now abandoned; the red have less body than those of *Martillac*.

*La Brède* is much more celebrated for its *château*, the abode of Montesquieu, than for its wines; it produces 850 tuns of very common red wines, and 1000 tuns of white, of very little value.

*Beautiran*, *Castres*, *Saint-Selve*, and *Portets*, make also very ordinary wines.

## ARRONDISSEMENT OF LEPARRE.

UPPER MÉDOC (*continued*).

This arrondissement is bounded on the east by the Gironde, on the south by the canton of Castelnau, and on the north and west by the ocean. Its superficies is about 540,000 acres, of which some 84,000 are planted with vines. Its population is estimated at 42,000 inhabitants, of whom 6,000 are proprietors. All this portion of the department is called Lower Médoc, excepting the communes of Saint-Julien, Pauillac, Saint-Estèphe, Saint-Seurin-de-Cadourne, Saint Laurent, Saint-Sauveur, Cissac, and Verteuil.

*Saint Julien de Reignac.*

This celebrated *commune* has the arrondissement of Bordeaux on the south, the Gironde on the east, the united parishes of Pauillac and Saint-Lambert on the north, and Saint-Laurent on the west. Its wines are very various, belonging to the second, third, and fourth growths, and are compared for their excellence to those of Margaux and Cantenac; they also owe much of their celebrity to the peculiarity of their flavour, which cannot be well compared to that of any



other claret: they combine all the qualities which constitute the very best wines.

*Upper Médoc. Best claret wines.*

The soil of this parish is a dark, strong gravel with but little sand: it reposes on an argillo-marly bottom. The growths of Léoville, Larose, Ducru, Lagrange, Langoa\*, St. Pierre, Duluc, Talbot, and Beychevellet, vie with the very best in the department. 1310 inhabitants; 1400 to 1800 tuns of wine; 20 miles from Bordeaux.

*Pauillac and Saint-Lambert.*

The parish of Pauillac is bounded on the north by that of Saint Estèphe, on the east by the Gironde, on the west by the parish of St. Sauveur, and on the

\* The handsome château and estate of Langoa belong to an English proprietor, H. Barton, Esq. It is delightfully situated, and commands a magnificent prospect.

† Château Beychevelle is the property of P. F. Guestier, peer of France. This rich domain has always been important. It formerly belonged to the *Maison de Foix*; but, in the sixteenth century, it passed into the hands of the Duke D'Epèrnon, when he became *Seigneur de Lesparre* by marrying the heiress of that family. This duke, being high admiral of France, obliged every vessel that sailed up the river towards Bordeaux to lower her sails (*Baisse-Voile*, hence *Beychevelle*) in token of submission. He possessed also the Château de Vayres, (on the Dordogne, now belonging to the ancient family of de Gourgue,) where he exercised the same right, with the same formalities.

south by that of St. Julien. It is renowned for the good quality and great abundance of its wines, and is situated about half way between Bordeaux and the tower of Cordouan. Ships going to or from Bordeaux are obliged to stop opposite Pauillac, called by Ausonius "*Pauliacus*."

The wine of this *commune* is full of *bouquet* and richness. It is here they make the celebrated wine known as Lafite, "which may have rivals, but no superior." Lafite yields on an average 100 tuns of first-rate and from 20 to 30 of second-rate wine; it has sold latterly dearer than any other wine, without the trade considering it better than the three other first growths. Besides the little town of Pauillac, this parish contains the villages of Bages, Milon, Le Pouyadet, Padarnac, and a few others. The ground rises in declivities exposed to the east, and the soil is gravelly upon a bottom of friable *alios*.

The parish of Saint-Lambert, now annexed to Pauillac, yields also excellent wines, the qualities of which are pretty similar to those of the St. Julien. It is here we find the first *crú*, *Latour*. This wine is distinguished by its body; it is firm, of a fine colour, very smooth, and rich in *bouquet*, and is rated by the trade as equal to those of Lafite and Château-Margaux. It affords on an average from 70 to 90 tuns of wine, reckoned peculiarly English. Since 1844 this

*crû* has been exclusively farmed by the house of Barton and Guestier, who hold a lease of 10 years. Besides Lafite and Latour, we find also the following wines in these two parishes; Mouton, an excellent second growth; Pichon-de-Longueville, Lesparre-Duroc, Casteja, Pontet-Canet, Jurine, D'Armailhacq, Ducasse, Batalley, and Grand Puy. 3658 inhabitants; 3500 to 4000 tuns of wine; 22 miles from Bordeaux.

*Saint-Estèphe.*

The marsh of Lafite separates Pauillac from this parish, which is bounded on the north by that of Saint-Saurin-de-Cadourne, on the east by the Gironde, on the south by Pauillac, and on the west by Verteuil. Saint Estèphe produces a great quantity of good wines of a flavour somewhat different from that of the produce of other good *communes*; they are light, agreeable, flavoury, highly perfumed, and may be bottled at the end of three or four years. Its vineyards are in a gravelly soil, which has generally a bottom of friable *alios*. It is very finely situated, and several vestiges of Gallo-Roman antiquities have been found here. Some of the best vines of Lafite are in this *commune*, on the hill of Cos, where M. Destournel has his vineyards, and where he has erected some rather fanciful buildings, that look well from the road. The other best growths are

Montrose, a good third *crú*, Calon, and Lafont-Rochet. 2145 inhabitants; 4500 to 5000 tuns of wine; 25 miles from Bordeaux.

*Saint-Seurin de Cadourne.*

Its wines have neither the *bouquet* nor the body that we find in those of the best communes of Médoc, but in good years especially, they are not destitute of richness and colour. The difference of the soil occasions a great disparity in the quality of these wines: that situated along the river is gravelly and stony; the rest, comprised in the marshes, yields but an inferior produce. 1100 inhabitants; 2500 to 3000 tuns of wine; 26 miles from Bordeaux.

*Saint-Laurent,*

This *commune* has Saint-Julien on the east, the arrondissement of Bordeaux on the north, the parish of Saint-Sauveur on the south, and the Landes on the west. It produces very good wines, which have more body and firmness than those of Saint-Sauveur, Cissac, and Verteuil, but are rather slow in arriving at maturity. On the eastern side it has a gravelly soil with a bottom of *alios* planted with choice vines, the produce of which is assimilated to that of Saint-Julien. It possesses La Tour Carnet, formerly one of the first third *crús*, but, like Calon,

no longer so highly rated. 2500 inhabitants; 1500 to 2000 tuns of wine; 20 miles from Bordeaux.

*Saint-Sauveur.*

Its wines are fine and delicate. They resemble those of Cissac, but have a more agreeable flavour and more *bouquet*. This superiority is accounted for by the nature of the ground, which is more generally gravelly or stony. Roman medals have been found here. 638 inhabitants: 400 to 600 tuns of wine: 22 miles from Bordeaux.

*Cissac.*

Its wines have about the same quality as those of Saint-Sauveur; only more body and colour. Its best *crûs* are produced on a gravelly soil, having a bottom of friable *alios*, and are well situated. At the village of Puy, in this *commune*, are the picturesque ruins of the ancient *Château du Brenil*. 958 inhabitants; 800 to 1,000 tuns of wine; 24 miles from Bordeaux.

*Verteuil.*

Its territory, agreeably situated, is divided into low lands or *Palus*, and high gravelly plains. Its wines acquire by age both richness and firmness; they have a good colour, but little *bouquet*: they are esteemed

in Holland and other northern countries. In ancient times Verteuil possessed two castles; a tower of one of which still remains. Tombs and ancient coins have likewise been found here. The Abbaye de Verteuil is one of the fine old monuments of the department.

#### LOWER MÉDOC.

The *communes* beyond St. Seurin de Cadourne and Verteuil are reputed *Bas-Médoc*; and the wines they produce are generally very inferior to those made in *Haut* (or Upper) Médoc. They have, for the most part, a taste of the soil; but when well chosen, and the produce of a year favourable to the vine, they are very fit for exportation: they also improve by age. The journal, or acre, gives, on an average, two or three hogsheads of wine; and the expenses of cultivating, &c., may be reckoned at 80 per cent. of the produce, which is sold from 8*l.* to 10*l.* per tun.

Among the *communes* in the following list, the wines of St. Germain d'Esteuil, St. Christoly, and Valeyrac, are distinguished for tasting less of the soil, and having more delicacy than those of the other parishes.

The *communes* of Lower Médoc are as follow:—

St. Germain d'Esteuil; the best *crú* of which is Château Livran, a favourite wine with the Dutch.

St. Christoly and Couqueques: near here was the ancient castle of Castillon.

Valeyrac, St. Trelody, Jau, Lesparre and Uch, Potensac, Blaignan, St. Yzan, Ordonnac, Bégadan, Graillan, Civrac and Escurac, Queyrac, and lastly, St. Vivien.

Beyond St. Vivien no place produces any wine; but the marsh land, drained by the Dutch, is devoted to the produce of corn and hay of an excellent quality; its cattle are also reckoned very good: the Leicester sheep, that have been propagated there for the last eighteen years, have thriven very well.

#### ARRONDISSEMENT OF LIBOURNE.

This arrondissement is bounded on the north by the departments of La Charente-Inférieure and La Dordogne, on the south by the arrondissement of La Réole, on the east by the department of La Dordogne, and on the west by the arrondissements of Bordeaux and Blaye.

The city of Libourne is said to have been founded by Edward I. of England, and improved by his son Edward II. It is supposed that they had a favourite residence in this neighbourhood, as several of

their acts, preserved by Rymer, are dated Condatles-Libourne. Three famous personages besieged and took it at different periods: Duguesclin in 1377; Dunoisin in 1451; and Talbot in 1452: it was also taken by the Duke de Vendome in 1653.

Its extent is about 300,000 acres, of which 70,000 are planted with vines; its surface is diversified with hills and plains; and its population 107,000. The 70,000 acres of vines produce, on an average, 63,000 tuns of wine, of which 21,000 are consumed by the inhabitants.

#### *St. Emilion.*

The wines of *St. Emilion* are the most famous in this arrondissement. They have a fine colour; are spirituous and agreeable; and present, in the first *crûs*, a peculiar *bouquet*. In good years it sends out as many as 2,500 tuns. Under the general name of *St. Emilion*, however, are comprehended the wines of *St. Martin de Mazerat*, *St. Christophe*, and *St. Laurent*, which are the best in the canton of *Libourne*; to which may be added those of *St. Sulpice*, *Pommerol* (wines delicate and fine), *St. Georges*, *Montagne*, and *Neac*, in the canton of *Lussac*. Next to these, but much inferior, are the wines of the communes of *Lussac*, *Puisseguin*, *Parsac*; also the *côte* wines of *St. Magne*, *Castillon*, and *Capitourlans*. The vineyards in the plain and on the heights have



every where a heavy sandy soil, with a bottom of clay and rock: the culminating points, where the rock is almost bare, being covered with only a little sand, gravel, and earth, are covered with vines. The best red vines cultivated in the vineyards of St. Emilion, are the *Merleau*, the two kinds of *Vidure* or *Bouchet*, the *Malbeck*, and, occasionally, the *Black Chalosse*. The number of species of vines is always in inverse ratio to the excellence of the produce: the best vineyards, consequently, have but very few. The expenses of cultivation may be estimated at 81 per cent. of the produce, which is from two to three hogsheads, at the average price of 14*l.* to 16*l.* per tun: the price is much higher for a few distinguished *crús*. There are many fine ruins in and about the town of St. Emilion; the most remarkable are those of the *Château du Roi*, where king John of England resided for some time.

#### *Fronsac.*

The canton of *Fronsac* produces much wine; but only the *côte* of *Fronsac* and that of *Canon*\* deserve to be mentioned: the latter wine was formerly preferred to those of *Médoc*, though it has less lightness

\* So called from the practice of firing cannon, to try them, near this place. The first growth of *Canon* sells much higher than the others.

and *bouquet*: it is highly coloured, firm, and funny, and may be kept for twenty years. For the first qualities, the prices are, for *Haut-St.-Emilion*, from 18*l.* to 20*l.* per tun; from 12*l.* to 14*l.* for the *côte* wines of Fronsac; and from 16*l.* to 18*l.* for the *Grave* wines of Pommerol.

When the English occupied Guienne, they added new lines to those that had been traced there by Charlemagne; and Fronsac was one of the last places they abandoned. The fort, in which the odious and tyrannical Seigneur de Fronsac lived, was destroyed by the orders of Louis XIII.\*, who hung the tyrant before his own castle-gate.

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#### ARRONDISSEMENT OF LA RÉOLE.

This arrondissement bounds the department at its south-eastern extremity; it is bounded on the east and south by the department of the Lot and Garonne; on the north by the arrondissement of Libourne, and on the west by that of Bordeaux and by the Garonne: it contains 53,800 inhabitants.

The land situated along the river is flat and sub-

\* Jouannet, v. ii. *passim*; Franck.

ject to inundations; that of the interior is hilly or intersected with ridges. This arrondissement is said to contain about 175,000 acres, of which about 42,000 are planted with vines; it is one of the finest in the department, is well cultivated, and, in fact, may be compared with the richest lands in France. St. Macaire and its environs can produce from 10,000 to 12,000 tuns of wine. The wines called *bourgeois* are not more distinguished than those termed *bons paysans*: the taste of the soil is very perceptible in these wines, which, generally, are highly coloured, but void of spirit and body. They are sent to Paris and Brittany; or, being mixed with white wine, serve for the *cabarets* in Bordeaux: the best are made in the parishes of Aubiac, Verdelaïs, St. Mexant, and St. André-du-Bois. Cauderot\*, four miles to the south-east of St. Macaire, produces wines superior to the preceding, having more body and a better colour. The church of St. Macaire is a very remarkable monument. The ruins of its old castle still exist, the walls of which are nine feet thick. St. Macaire is famous for its cooperage. At La Réole also there are ruins of an old castle, and a convent which was repaired and embellished by the Black Prince.

\* Cauderot is situated at the mouth of the river Drot, which has lately been canalized for a space of sixty miles by a Bordeaux company, by which a means of communication has been effected for the produce of this very beautiful valley.

## ARRONDISSEMENT OF BAZAS.

This arrondissement is situated at the southern extremity of the department: it is bounded on the south by the department of the Landes, which bounds it also on the west; on the north by the arrondissement of Bordeaux, and by the Garonne; and on the east by the arrondissement of La Réole and the department of Lot and Garonne. Its superficies contains about 300,000 acres, of which 24,000 are planted with vines. It produces a small quantity of wine, which has no reputation, but is consumed on the spot. Two of its *communes*, however, Bommès and Sauternes, afford excellent white wines, which will be mentioned in one of the following chapters. The population of this arrondissement is said to be about 53,700.\* The cathedral of Bazas is considered one of the finest monuments of gothic architecture in the department: the present building dates from the year 1233.

\* This arrondissement, like the others, contains a great many curious old churches and ruins, which it would be foreign to the nature of this work to enumerate. The curious in such matters may consult the elaborate work of M. Jouannet, "*Statistique du Département de la Gironde*," v. ii. pp. 93—115.

## ARRONDISSEMENT OF BLAYE.

This arrondissement is bounded on the north by the department of the Charente-Inférieure, on the east by the same and the arrondissement of Libourne, and on the west by the Garonne and the Gironde. Its northern part is flat, and rather woody; whilst the southern is intersected with hills from east to west. The elevated portions of its territory have a soil of a diversified character, being now gravelly and light, now stony and calcareous. Population about 55,000.

The surface of this arrondissement contains 180,000 acres, of which about 25,000 are planted with vines. It is composed of four cantons; Blaye and Bourg, which produce red wines, and St. Ciers-Lalande, and St. Savain, known for different kinds of grain, and a few white wines.

The canton of Blaye furnishes some 8000 tuns of flat red wine, of a dark dull colour, and having a taste of the soil. Those of Bourg, on the contrary, have less colour, but more body and delicacy; they were formerly preferred to the Médoc wines; but now the very best *crûs* of Bourg are compared to the inferior ones of the former: they are divided into four classes.

## BOURG WINES.

The *commune* of Bourg, situated on the right bank of the Dordogne, produces the most esteemed of the wines known by the general denomination of *Vins de Bourg*. Its soil is variable: being in one place calcareous, mixed with gravel, and very fit for the vine; in another, marly; then again, light, gravelly, and mixed with a blackish or grey earth. Its hills are covered with vines, producing a wine of a fine colour and much body, which acquires, by age, a taste of almonds and an agreeable *bouquet*: it may be kept for thirty years. Its red wines are the *Merlot*, the *Carmenet*, the *Mancin*, the *Teinturier*, the *Chalosse Noire*, the *Prolongeau*, and the *Verdot*. 2560 inhabitants; 1500 to 2000 tuns of red wine; 12 miles from Bordeaux.

The other *communes* producing Bourg wines are: Camillac and La Libarde, both united to Bourg; Bayon, opposite the island of Cazeau, and known for its esteemed *crû*, Château de Falfax, Gauriac, Villeneuve, Samonac, St. Seurin de Bourg, Comps, St. Ciers de Canesse, Prignac, and Cazelle: the two last produce only wines of an inferior description.

## WHITE WINES.

Though the white wines of the Gironde are celebrated, and less abundant in the market than the red, yet in famous years, when they have both succeeded equally well, the latter ever maintain a superior price; whilst the prices of the red vary from 12*l.* to 120*l.* per tun, those of the white vary from 8*l.* to 60*l.*

What is required of white wines, is liquor and strength. The excess of maturity, producing a sweetness which is later transformed into alcohol, never injures the delicacy of their flavour, nor the development of their perfume.

We begin by the most celebrated on the left bank of the Garonne above Bordeaux.

*Sauternes.*

This famous parish is bounded on the north by Bommes, on the south by Fargues, on the east by Preignac, and on the west by Budos. Its vines grow upon hills of dry and almost unalloyed gravel: when this gravel lies upon a bed of clay (calcareous and marly), the produce is much superior to that of the vineyards which have a sandy bottom.

Sauternes' wines are distinguished by a particularly delicious flavour. They are fine, savoury, delicate,

and, in good years, sweet and highly perfumed. The prices vary with the years, from 18*l.* to 60*l.* for the best *crús*, and from 14*l.* to 24*l.* for the second. The first *crú*, Yquem, belongs to the family of Lur Saluces, one of the first and most ancient in France. 1060 inhabitants; 500 to 800 tuns; 28 miles from Bordeaux.

*Bommes.*

Bommes has Sauternes on the south, Pujols on the west, Preignac on the east, and the Ciron on the north. Its territory consists partly of plains, and partly of hills, on the right bank of the Ciron; the latter are covered with gravel, and produce wines as fresh as, and lighter than, those of Sauternes. The wines of the plain have less perfume and sweetness than those of the hills. 800 inhabitants; 450 to 650 tuns; 26 miles from Bordeaux.

*Preignac.*

This parish is bounded by Barsac, Bommes, Sauternes, Pujols, Toulene, and the Garonne. Its soil is mostly composed of gravel, mixed with ochred sandy clay or hard earth. Some of its wines are reckoned equal to those of Sauternes; but they are, generally, less fine, and have less perfume. 2590 inhabitants; 1000 to 1400 tuns; 26 miles from Bordeaux.



*Fargues.*

*commune* is to the south of Sauternes. It has a light soil of sand and gravel. Its wines are delicate, and have an agreeable flavour. 790 inhabitants; 220 to 250 tuns; 26 miles from Bordeaux.

*Barsac.*

Barsac has the Garonne on the east, Cérons on the north, Ilats on the west, and the Ciron and Preignac on the south. Its soil is clayey and stony; and its wines warm, full of alcohol, and strongly perfumed. The first growths were formerly as much esteemed as those of Sauternes, but they have now fallen in estimation; the prices are from 15*l.* to 48*l.* per tun. *Le Coutet*, the first *crú*, belongs to the family of Lur Saluces, who own almost all the best *crús* of this white wine country. 2850 inhabitants; 600 to 900 tuns; 24 miles from Bordeaux.

The other principal white wine parishes on the left bank are: Cérons, the first *crú* of which belongs to the Comte de Clavimont; Podensac, Pujols, Virelade, Arbanats, Landiras, Ilats, Villenave d'Ornon, and Léognan; the two latter of which produce white wines of considerable reputation; that of *Château de Carbonnieux*, in the former commune, has a peculiar

flavour and an agreeable *bouquet*, somewhat resembling that of the Rhenish wines.

The vineyards on the right bank are finely situated on a ridge of hills; but they produce, as we have said, wines very inferior, generally speaking, to those on the left. The first *crûs* are those of Loupiac and Sainte Croix du Mont; they are even reckoned among good white wines. The soil on this bank is, generally, argillaceous and stony. The wines of Bau-reche, Tabanac, Le Tourne, Langoiran, Paillet and Rions, are known by the denomination of *côtes supérieures*; they are agreeable and firm when they have well succeeded. Beguey and Cadillac produce white wines of an inferior quality.

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#### GENERAL VIEW OF UPPER MÉDOC.

On leaving Bordeaux, and following the course of the river, or the Médoc road, for about five miles, we arrive at the parish of Blanquefort, beyond which a bridge, called Aigue-longue, indicates the commencement of the claret country. From this place to Margaux, about eight miles, the vineyards increase in quality and value. At Margaux, this improvement ceases for a time; and we must advance as far as St.

Julien, six miles further, to find the wine again in its highest perfection. After Pauillac, this privileged superiority again declines, and, at length, stops at the limits of Saint-Seurin-de-Cadourne.

On leaving Blanquefort, the first commune of any importance is Ludon, which possesses a *crû* termed La Lagune, a fourth growth. At Macau, we find Cantemerle, a wine much esteemed in Holland; and in the parish of Labarde, a tolerable third *crû*, Giscours. The communes of Cantenac and Margaux contain first-rate properties. Their vines produce but very little wine; but it is reckoned, by some, the most delicate and agreeable in the department. Château Margaux, Rauzan, several second, and a great many third *crûs*, attest the excellence of these two parishes. The wines of Soussans, none of which are of note, are not superior to those of Ludon; and those of Arcins, Lamarque, and Cussac, are unclassified.

We now pass an imaginary frontier, enter upon the arrondissement of Lesparre, and find ourselves on the famous territory of St. Julien, surrounded by valuable estates. These wines are various, and belong to the second, third, and fourth growths. St. Julien owes its celebrity, in a great measure, to the peculiar flavour of its wines, which cannot be well likened to that of any other in Médoc. On entering the commune from Bordeaux, we find the Château de Beychevelle. This estate distinguishes itself chiefly from the generality

of the landed property in this country by the châteaux being almost exclusively surrounded by meadow land. It produces very good wine.

Opposite Beychevelle, on the left, is Duluc, another good growth of St. Julien; and, following the road towards Pauillac, the estates of Larose, St. Pierre, Ducru, Talbot (the property of the Marquis D'Auch, peer of France), and, in the distance, Lagrange (belonging to Count Duchatel, minister of the interior); all appear in full view. Advancing further, we perceive, on the left of the road, the fine estate and Château de Langoa, (belonging to an English proprietor, Hugh Barton, Esq.,) in high repute for its excellent wines; after which, at a very short distance, we enter the bourg of St. Julien, and find the Château de Leoville, one part of which belongs to the Marquis de Lascaze, another to the Baron Poiféré de Cères, and a third to H. Barton, Esq.

The whole of this bourg is built upon a very conspicuous mound, facing the river, and about a mile from it. This parish does not cover an area of more than 15,000 acres; but the properties enumerated above, which comprise the bulk of the estates, and beyond which there are but a few small *bourgeois* and *paysans*, are valued at 750,000*l*.

Pauillac and St. Lambert are contiguous to St. Julien. In these parishes we remark two first *crûs*, Lafite and Latour; and two secondary ones, Mouton

and Pichon-Longueville, though the latter is considered by some as a third *crú*. The other vineyards of these two parishes do not quite equal those of St. Julien.\*

St. Estèphe possesses several distinguished vineyards: Cos-Destournel, which claims to be a second *crú*, though it is still more contested than Pichon; Montrose, which claims also to be placed among the third, though it is but very recently planted; and Calon, which, though formerly the first *crú* of the parish, is now among the fourth.

At Lamarque the first *bourgeois* wines sell, in good years, at 24*l*. The prices at Cussac are much the same; whereas at Molis and Listrac they vary from 20*l*. to 32*l*. per tun.

The grand characteristics which stamp the superior merit of these wines of Upper Médoc are their delicacy, their richness, and, especially, their *bouquet*; to which excellencies we may add a grand negative quality,—the total absence of the *terroir*, or that taste of the soil which, in bad years especially, is found more or less in all the wines of Lower Médoc.

\* But, among them, there are many fourth growths: Mandavy-Milon, Pontet-Canet, Batailly, Lacoste, St. Guirons, Lynch or Jurine, Castéja Milon, &c.

## CLASSIFICATION OF THE MÉDOC OR BEST CLARET WINES.

Mr. William Franck, the author of the treatise on the wines of Médoc, which I have frequently quoted in the latter part of this work, and from which I have chiefly borrowed the characters of the wines, expresses himself in the following terms on the subject of classification:—“We have now arrived at the most delicate part of our task. The classing of famous wines, though established on sure bases as far as some species are concerned, presents a great uncertainty in what concerns other properties. A wine which one person declares to be third-rate, ought not, according to the dictum of another, to rise from the fourth class. . . . In such matters it is quite impossible to obtain unanimity.” Further on, he says, “*Crús* of the same class, situated sometimes in distant *communes*, or parishes, yield a produce of equal merit, but of a different character; whereas sometimes, in the same parishes, adjacent properties furnish wines that have often very little affinity between them. To introduce some kind of order among these diverse elements, people have, for a very long period, chosen in every parish the wines which, endowed with an equal superiority, ought to realise the same price; and it is thus that classes

have been formed, sanctioned by custom, which has acquired the force of law.

“Vintage varies according to the season; hence, to obtain an exact idea of a wine it is indispensable to know its year. A pretty regular proportion has established itself between all the Médoc wines in such a manner that, when the first wines have been sold, every body knows at what price he ought to sell, or very nearly.

“People would fall into the greatest mistake, should they consider all the wines that are not included in the lists of the best growths (*grands crus*), as inferior and without quality. When the vintage is good, unclassified vineyards often give excellent wines; but famous years make a very sensible difference between the classes.”\*

Classed wines are distinguished by the denomination of first, second, third, and fourth *crus*, or growths, and the difference of price from one to the other is about 12 per cent; they are forty-six in number. The first class have been sold as low as 72*l.* per tun, but more frequently at 96*l.*; in good years they have been bought at 140*l.*, and, occasionally, in partial quantities at a much higher price.

Classification of growths is the order of merit assigned to wines. It has been established by custom,

\* Wm. Franck, *Traité sur les Vins du Médoc*, 1845, p. 169, 170.

according to an estimate determined by trade. In forming, therefore, the following lists, I have not only had recourse to whatever has already been written on this subject, but have availed myself of the various information afforded me by those whom I have considered the most competent judges; price having appeared to me the best test of the quality supposed to exist in each wine.

### *First Growths.*

The four first *crûs* formerly followed the same price; but Haut-Brion, situated in the *Grave* near Bordeaux, had, for some time, rather declined in value. However, having since then passed into new hands, it bids fair to recover its ancient reputation: the average price of these wines is 96*l.* per tun.\*

Names of the Wines and the Proprietors.		Parish.	Annual Produce in Tuns.	
Lafite.	Sir Samuel Scott -	Pauillac	120 to 150	
Château-Margaux.	Heirs of Agua-			
	do, Marquis de las Masrismas	Margaux	100	120
Latour.	Marquis de Beaumont	Pauillac	80	100
Haut-Brion.	Larrieu - -	Pessac	100	120

### *Second Growths.*

The second *crûs* are generally sold about 12*l.* less than the first. With a few exceptions, they are all

\* Lafite wine was sold in 1825 at 138*l.* per tun, and in 1844 at 180*l.* When old this and the other first growths have been as high as 400*l.* per tun.



of nearly the same value: when the first sell at 96*l.*, the second vary from 82*l.* to 84*l.*

Names of the Wines and the Proprietors.		Parish.	Annual Produce in Tuns.	
Mouton.	Thuret - -	Pauillac	120 to 140	
Leville.	{ Baron Poyféré de Cerès }	St. Julien	{ 40	50
	{ Barton - - }		{ 50	70
	{ Marquis de Lascazes }		{ 80	100
Rauzan.	Castelpert and Gassies	Margaux	50	70
Durfort.	De Vivens - -	Margaux	30	35
Gruand-Larose. Baron Sarget and the heirs of Balguerie Stutenberg - - - -		St. Julien	100	150
Lascombes.	L. A. Hue - -	Margaux	20	25
Gorse.	De Brannes - -	Cantenac	50	60

*Third, Fourth, and Second-Fourth Growths.*

Third growths sell, generally, about 12*l.* cheaper than the second; but when the prices of the first are not very high, the difference is not so great: when the first sell at 96*l.*, the third are sold at 72*l.*

Fourth growths sell at about 12*l.* less than the third, varying from 48*l.* to 60*l.*; and the Second-Fourths are sold at about half the price of the first-rate wines, varying from 40*l.* to 48*l.* per tun.

As I have already stated, it is absolutely impossible to determine the particular merit of each wine, or to assign with precision the rank which each should occupy in the following enumeration: —

Names of the Wines and the Proprietors.	Parish.	Annual Produce in Tuns.	
Ducru - - - -	St. Julien	100 to 120	
Pichon de Longueville - -	St. Lambert	100	120
Cos. Destournel - - -	St. Estèphe	70	80
Lagrange. Duchâtel (Minister of the Interior) - - -	St. Julien	120	150
Langoa. Barton - - -	St. Julien	100	120
Kirwan. De Scryver - -	Cantenac	35	40
Château D'Issan. Duluc -	Cantenac	50	70
Boyd, Brown, or Fruitier -	Cantenac	60	70
Malescot. Saint-Exupéry -	Margaux	60	70
Montrose. Dumoulin - -	St. Estèphe	100	120
Saint-Pierre. { Bontemps du Barry, } { Rouillet and Galou- } { peau - - - - } { } Duluc - - - - -	St. Julien	{ 25 } { 35 } { 25 } { 35 }	{ 35 } { 35 }
Talbot. Marquis D'Aux -	St. Julien	80	90
Lesparre-Duroc. Milon Mandavy	Pauillac	70	80
Bekker - - - - -	Margaux	25	30
Dubignon. Marcellin and Talbot	Margaux	15	20
Desmirail - - - - -	Margaux	25	35
Calon. Lestapis - - -	Margaux	30	40
Carnet. (Luctkins) - -	St. Estèphe	120	160
La Lagune. Joffray - -	St. Laurent	100	120
Beychevelle. P. F. Guestier -	Ludon	40	50
Giscours. Promis - - -	St. Julien	100	120
Ferrière - - - - -	Labarde	80	100
Pougets. De Chavaille -	Margaux	10	15
Lafon-Rochet. Camarsac -	Cantenac	25	30
Casteja (formerly Duhard) -	St. Estèphe	30	40
Canet Pontet - - - -	Pauillac	40	50
Jurine, à Bages - - -	Pauillac	100	120
D'Armailhacq - - - -	Pauillac	100	120
Ducas - - - - -	Pauillac	100	120
Ducasse - - - - -	Pauillac	80	90
Batalley. D. Guestier - -	Pauillac	60	80
Grand Puy. Lacoste (St. Girons)	Pauillac	50	60

Names of the Wines and the Proprietors.	Parish.	Annual Produce in Tuns.
De Bourran (formerly Lynch)	Cantenac	40 to 45
La Mission (Chiapella) - -	Pessac	30 40
Seguireau Deyries - -	Margaux	10 12
Lanoire - - - -	Margaux	35 40

By adding up the produce of these wines, we find there are from 3000 to 3500 tuns; but, as very good years are seldom abundant, the total produce may be reckoned at 3000 tuns of classed wines.

After the Second-Fourth growths, comes a list of wines known by the name of *Bons Bourgeois*, composed of almost all the good wines of St. Estèphe, Pauillac, and St. Julien, that have not yet been mentioned; also some good vineyards of Soussans, Labarde, Ludon, and Macau, as well as the small proprietors of Margaux and Cantenac, which sell at an average from 28*l.* to 40*l.* per tun. Their prices, however, vary according to the particular success of each vintage.

After these wines, we must mention the small properties of Pauillac and St. Estèphe, a few of the best vineyards of Cissac, St. Sauveur, Lamarque, Cussac, St. Seurin, and Verteuil; as well as the wines termed *Paysans* of Margaux, Cantenac, St. Julien, and Pauillac, which vary between 20*l.* and 28*l.*

Lastly, the peasant and small peasant properties in

celebrated *communes* make, occasionally, pretty good wines, which find purchasers at from 12*l.* to 18*l.*

Of the properties termed *Paysans*, it frequently happens that some are scattered among the famous classed vineyards ; but their produce is always wanting in flavour and *bouquet* — that aroma which gives so much value to the wines of the latter. This difference may be partly, if not wholly, explained by the imperfect process of vintage adopted by the smaller proprietors, and by the difference of the vines : such proprietors endeavouring to obtain the greatest possible quantity of wine ; whereas, on famous estates, quantity is a secondary consideration, quality being the chief aim and ambition of every owner.\*

\* See Wm. Franck, pp. 169—176 ; Jouannet, v. ii. pp. 214—241.

## CLASSIFICATION OF THE WHITE WINES.

Those wines marked (1) are of the first *crû* or growth, (2) of the second *crû*, and (3) of the third *crû*.

*Sauternes.*

Name.	Proprietor.	Tuns.
Yquem (1) * -	Madame la Marquise de Lur Saluces † - - -	100 to 120
Yquem (1) -	Guiraud - - -	70 80
Filhiol (2) -	Marquis de Lur Saluces -	120 140
Baptiste (2) -	- - - - -	50 60
Château D'Arche (3)	Lafaurie - - - - -	20 25
Rabat (3) -	- - - - -	12 15
Lafon (3) -	- - - - -	25 30

*Bommes.*

Vigneau (1) † -	Madame la Baronne de Rayne	60 70
La Tour Blanche (1) *	Focke - - - - -	60 70
Peyruguey (1) -	Lafaurie (Sr.) - - -	60 70
Rabant (1) -	Deyme - - - - -	25 30
Lasalle (2) -	Emerigon - - - - -	100 120
Pechotte (2) -	Lacoste - - - - -	25 30

*Preignac.*

Soudiraut (1) -	Duroy, Guilhot - - -	120 130
Lamontagne (2)	Larrieu - - - - -	100 120

\* Yquem and La Tour Blanche have become rivals.

† One of the first families in France, and originally from Piedmont, where the town of Saluces still exists.

‡ This valuable estate is most delightfully situated.

Name.	Proprietor.	Tuns.	
Montalier (2) -	Le Comte de la Myre Mory	30 to	40
Château de Malle (2)	Le Comte Alexandre de Lur		
	Saluces - - -	70	80
Les Ormes (2) -	Appiau - - -	50	60

*Fargues.*

Mareillac (1) -	- - - -	60	70
Amé (2) -	- - - -	20	25
Charon (2) -	Brustis - - -	12	15

*Barsac.*

Coutet (1) -	Marquis de Lur Saluces -	100	120
Climenz (1) -	Lacoste - - -	60	70
Myrat (1) -	Perrot - - -	80	100
Daune (1) -	- - - -	10	12
Vedrine (2) -	Madame Dubocq - -	60	70
Chemizard (2) -	- - - -	30	35
Pernaud (2) -	Comtesse de Lur Saluces -	30	40
Suhaute (2) -	Marion - - -	20	25
Nérac (3) -	Capdeville - - -	25	30
Guitte-Ronde (3)	A. Journu - - -	40	50

## VINTAGES SINCE 1815.

A considerable period must elapse before any vintage can be finally pronounced upon. It has happened, more than once, that the wines of certain years began to be appreciated only when there were but small portions remaining.

It is generally allowed that it is much easier to judge of the white wines than the red, even from the vintage. In the red, present taste requires a perfect equilibrium of different opposite properties, which mutually counteract each other; such as body, a fine colour, and perfect maturity, together with an agreeable flavour, smoothness, and an exquisite perfume. But with respect to the white, all that is required of them is, that they should possess body and strength.

For red wines to succeed to perfection, they require a very rare succession of changes of temperature: now warm, to ripen the grapes; now wet, to soften the skins; and now dry, to stop the sap. But, after all, the wine will sometimes deceive the judgment of the most subtle *connaisseurs*, of which many Bordeaux merchants are examples; and many years which have since been highly esteemed, had been preceded by summers so unfavourable as to cause proprietors to despair of their vintage. Such were the years 1819 and 1828; even in 1834, no proprietor expected to make so good a wine.

Moreover, among the best vines the diversity of qualities is very great: some giving a delicate wine, but of a weak colour, others having more body; these being distinguished for their colour, those for their softness. It is therefore necessary to choose, among these different qualities, a suitable proportion to make a perfect wine. But, in spite of this choice, as these

several plants bloom, develop, and ripen, at different periods, it will almost always happen that one will predominate to the detriment of the others. To these causes must be attributed the very different success of the same *crú* during several years, or that of two *crús* of the same class in the same year.

In general, the first six or seven months of the year exercise a great influence over the produce of the vintage, by accidental circumstances; such as frost, hail, inclement weather during the blossom month, and blights. The quality, on the contrary, seems to depend on the temperature of the two or three months preceding the vintage, and on the weather accompanying it. The following are the characteristics of the wines since 1815, according to Mr. Franck:—

1815.—The quality of the red and white wines equally superior. A remarkable year in every respect. A perfect development. The wines agreeable and perfumed, having both body and richness.

1816.—Continual rain during the spring and summer. The weather cold. The worst possible vintage. Many proprietors did not even gather their grapes; and much wine was converted into vinegar.

1817.—Wet and unfavourable weather. The vintage scanty, and scarcely better than the last.

1818.—The weather rather warm and favourable. Wines coloured, but hard. Prices very high.

1819.—The summer mild, but variable. Rain



during the vintage. Wines extremely abundant ; but, in the beginning, of a dubious quality. After a few months, however, they were found to possess many good qualities. The superior classes were remarkable for their delicacy, *bouquet*, elegancy, and agreeable quality. The white proved very good.

1820.—A very severe winter. The vine suffered from the frost. The summer variable.

The red wines had body, a fine colour, and good maturity ; but, in developing, they remained hard, and were destitute of suavity and *bouquet*. The white also were of an inferior quality. High prices, followed by serious losses.

1821.—A rainy summer, and a late vintage, impeded by very bad weather. The produce abundant, but of a very inferior quality. The wines acid, and without body : the red useless, and the white scarcely better.

1822.—A rainy winter, but rather mild. On the 20th of April a sharp frost ravaged the vine, then far advanced ; but, favoured by very warm weather in May, the vines, which had been completely stripped, budded again. The summer continued dry and very warm ; and the vintage, even of the white wines, was in full activity at the unexampled early period of the 22d of August.

In consequence of the frost and hail-stones the produce was scanty. The red had a fine colour, delicacy,

and flavour; the white possessed body, and every excellent quality. In developing, the red were found to be somewhat hard. They both sold at high prices, and afforded advantageous profits.

1823. — A rather mild winter; the summer stormy and rainy, and a late vintage. In August and the commencement of September, several warm days served to ripen the grapes; then, continual rain during the vintage with cold weather. Several proprietors, in despair, left the grapes on their vines. The produce very abundant. The red wines, at first, very inferior and flat, without either colour or body; the white unripe and weak. The wines of Médoc, however, in developing were found to have much *bouquet*, and to be light and delicate. In consequence of their low prices these wines were found profitable for the trade.

1824. — Rainy and unfavourable weather throughout the year. Hard acid wines. One of the worst years.

1825. — A rather frosty winter, and a cold spring. In the month of May, warm weather and frequent light showers. Many westerly winds. August and September fine; and beautiful weather for vintage. A celebrated year. The wines seemed to possess every fine quality, and were eagerly bought up at excessive prices. They developed very slowly. The white wines developed in such a manner as to acquire the reputa-

tion of a famous year. They were fine and generous possessing both body and liquor.

1826.—A rather cool and rainy summer, and a bad vintage. The white wines acid, the red weak in body and colour. The red acquired, by age, rather more colour and body; but their quality remained very inferior.

1827.—A pretty good vintage. The red wines had both body and colour. The white were of a middling quality. Abundant year.

1828.—A mild winter, a warm summer, and rain during the vintage. Red wines generally light and fine, but with little body and colour. In developing, the better classes of claret turned out very favourably, and were highly esteemed for their smoothness and perfume. The white, though very agreeable, were rather wanting in body.

1829.—A rainy winter, followed by a mild spring and a variable summer. A cold August, and continual rain during the vintage, which was very bad. The red and white wines were equally unripe, and void of body and colour. The superior classes acquired some perfume as they grew old; but the others remained useless.

1830.—A very severe winter, and a rather warm summer. A very small quantity of wine of a middling quality. The red had body and colour; but were hard and unripe like the white.

1831.—A severe winter, followed by a warm and stormy summer: the hail destroyed a part of the grapes. The vintage was made during fine weather and occasional slight showers: its produce very small, but of a first-rate character, and bought up at high prices. The white wines surpassed, perhaps, those of 1822 in body and strength; and were more delicate than those of 1825. The first *crûs*, slow in developing, were rich, flavoured, and perfumed. This year is reckoned first rate.

1832.—A rather mild winter, followed by a very fine spring, and an exceedingly warm summer. Not one drop of rain from June till after the vintage, which was abundant. The red wines were wanting in richness and *bouquet*; the white had many good qualities: the great abundance\* permitted the proprietors to sell them at low prices.

1833.—A rather mild winter, a fine spring, and a warm wet summer; the weather cold and rainy during vintage. A very abundant quantity both of red and white; the former had colour and some body, but were unripe; however, they improved a little as they grew old. The white also turned out well; and, though rather thin, were agreeable.

1834.—A frosty April, a stormy summer, with much hail; a very warm August, a very cold and

\* 1832 was by no means an abundant vintage for the red wines. — C. C.

rainy September, and an intensely warm October. The vintage produced very little wine, but in some places it proved to have a very fine quality, which has caused this vintage to be catalogued among the most famous.\* The white wines were excellent.

1835.—A very variable summer, followed by a cold and stormy September. The vintage of the *Côte*, *Palus*, and white wines, took place in the most unfavourable weather. Médoc, however, was favoured with a few fine days for gathering its grapes. Quantity very abundant, excepting in a few parishes that had suffered from the hail. The wines, generally speaking, were weak in body and colour, and rather unripe; however, in developing, they were found to have a remarkable *bouquet*, and to lose their acidity. The *Grave* and *Palus* wines were extremely unripe. As for the white wines, no year since 1829 had been so bad as this.†

1836.—Vegetation at first impeded and retarded by the weather. Excessive heat in the beginning of summer; but inconstant weather, the temperature being occasionally wet and even cold. This caused the quality of the wines, though of a rather good

\* Since Mr. Franck wrote his remarks on this vintage, the wines of 1834 have acquired great celebrity. — C. C.

† Mr. Franck's list closes at the year 1835. I have endeavoured to supply the deficiency, and to continue the enumeration up to the vintage of last year (1845).

appearance, to be deteriorated by an acidity, which subsequently gained the upper hand. The quantity and the prices the same as in 1835. On the whole, the wines, though possessing more body and colour, did not turn out so good as those of that year.

1837.—An equally backward spring, without the same changeable temperature; the result was much more favourable for the vintage, which was the best since 1834, and, in quantity, much more abundant. Early purchases at fair prices.

1838.—A hard winter. Late frosts in the spring. The vintage under the average quantity, and of a bad quality, attributed to sudden changes of temperature during the summer. The wine dry, and inclining to greenness, but ultimately flavoury, and of a tolerable colour. Prices low.

1839.—A frosty spring, occasioning the *coulure* or shedding: consequently very little fruit, and a far scantier vintage than the preceding one. Wine, generally, of a middling quality: inclined to hardness and is becoming dry. Prices not high; and the wine generally bought up.

1840.—An abundant vintage. The wine well coloured, flavoury, and particularly smooth, but rather deficient in body. It has met with much approbation in the German market; but its want of body precluded the possibility of its being used for England. Prices moderate. The white wines very good.

1841.—A vintage that has been much liked in England; and the quantity almost equal to that of the preceding year. The wines proved to be rich, highly coloured, and firm, although rather inclined to hardness at first; they ultimately became smooth; and, according to many, are turning out equal to those of 1834. The vintage was good throughout the claret country. Fine colour, body, and flavour, are the general characters of these wines; which are certainly better qualified to suit English taste than any wines for several years past. The white wines were also good; but not so rich as those of 1840. Prices moderate, until the quality became known, and then very high.

1842.—A vintage middling as to quantity, and of very moderate pretensions as to quality: some of the superior claret growths remain still unsold in the growers' hands. The wines have a pretty good colour and no absolute defect; but they are wanting in body. They, however, bid fair to meet with approbation on the Continent. White wines very indifferent. Prices low.

1843.—A vintage of a very bad character and very small produce. The white wines no better than the red: though bad, the white sold comparatively higher than the red, owing to their scarcity in the market.

1844.—A first-rate vintage; reckoned the best since that of 1815, to which some liken it; and bid-

ding fair to give the same satisfaction as those of the most famous years. The wines possess a rich colour, a fruity mellow taste, and promise to exhale an abundant delicious *bouquet*. The quantity is rated rather under the average crop. The prices of the best growths very high, and great competition to purchase them. The whole of the red wines very good. The white not accounted so good as the red; and no price, except that of Yquem, can be quoted as high, though the scarcity of white wines still continues.

1845.—A very bad vintage: the temperature having been unfavourable throughout the year. Hitherto the wines have proved to be extremely deficient in body, colour, and every good quality, and strongly acidulated. The white wines even worse than the red. Prices high for all the low sorts of red and white, owing to the prevailing scarcity.



## APPENDIX.

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### TABLES OF MONEY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

#### MONEY.

##### *French Francs reduced to English Money.*

To find the value of francs in English money, for ordinary purposes, one has only to divide the amount of francs by 25, or substitute 4 for 100, thus:—

	Francs.		£
Thus :	25	=	1
	100	=	4
	1000	=	40

If, however, great minuteness be required, the exact sum may be obtained by means of the following tables:—

##### *French Money reduced to English £ s. d.*

Sous.	Cents.	£	s.	d.	Francs.	£	s.	d.
1 =	5 =	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{100}$	1 =	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 =	10 =	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{50}$	5 =	0	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 =	15 =	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{100}$	10 =	0	7	11
4 =	20 =	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{50}$	15 =	0	11	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 =	25 =	0	0	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{100}$	20 =	0	15	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
10 =	50 =	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{50}$	25 =	0	19	10
20 =	100 =	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 =	3	19	4
					1000 =	39	13	4

*English Money reduced to French Francs and Centimes.*

d.	s.	f. c.	s.	£	f. c.
1	=	0 10½	5	=	0 = 6 30
2	=	0 21	20	=	1 = 25 20
6	=	0 63			5 = 126 0
12	=	1 26			20 = 504 0
					100 = 2520 0

**WEIGHTS.***French Kilogrammes into English Pounds  
(Avoirdupois).*

Kilom.	E. lb.	Kilom.	E. lb.
1	= 2·206	25	= 55·143
2	= 4·411	50	= 110·286
3	= 6·617	100	= 220·571
4	= 8·823	1000	= 2205·714
5	= 11·028		

*French Pounds into English Pounds.*

F. lb.	E. lb.	F. lb.	E. lb.
1	= 1·080	10	= 10·797
2	= 2·159	20	= 21·594
3	= 3·239	25	= 26·993
4	= 4·319	100	= 107·971
5	= 5·398	1000	= 1079·710

## MEASURES.

*French Feet reduced into English Feet and Decimal Parts.*

F. feet.		E. feet.	F. feet.		E. Feet.
1	=	1·066	20	=	21·315
2	=	2·132	25	=	26·644
3	=	3·197	100	=	106·577
4	=	4·263	500	=	532·883
5	=	5·329	1000	=	1065·765
10	=	10·658			

*French Metres into English Feet.*

Mètres.		E. feet.	Mètres.		E. feet.
1	=	3·281	20	=	65·618
2	=	6·562	25	=	82·022
3	=	9·843	100	=	328·090
4	=	13·123	500	=	1640·450
5	=	16·404	1000	=	3280·899
10	=	32·809			

*French Kilometres and Myriameters into English Miles, &c.*

Kil.		E. m.	f.	yds.	Kil.	myr.	E. m.	f.	yds.
1	=	0	4	213	10	=	1	=	6 1 156
2	=	1	1	206	20	=	2	=	12 3 92
3	=	1	6	199	30	=	3	=	18 5 10
4	=	2	3	192	40	=	4	=	24 6 160
5	=	3	0	185	50	=	5	=	31 0 90

*French Leagues (Lienes de Poste) into English Miles and Yards.*

L.		E. m.	yards.	L.		E. m.	yards.
1	=	2	743.061	10	=	24	390.610
2	=	4	1486.122	20	=	48	781.221
3	=	7	469.183	100	=	242	386.107
4	=	9	1212.244	500	=	1211	170.535
5	=	12	195.305	1000	=	2422	341.070

*French Toises reduced to English Feet.*

Toises.		E. feet.	Toises.		E. feet.
1	=	6.395	10	=	63.946
5	=	31.973	100	=	639.459

*French Hectares into English Acres.*

Hect.		acres.	Hect.		acres.
1	=	2.471	10	=	24.711
2	=	4.942	20	=	49.423
3	=	7.413	50	=	123.557
4	=	9.884	100	=	247.114
5	=	12.356	1000	=	2471.143

*French "Aunes de Paris" into English Yards.*

Aunes.		yds.	Aunes.		yds.
1	=	1.300	10	=	12.997
2	=	2.599	25	=	32.493
3	=	3.889	50	=	64.986
4	=	5.199	100	=	129.972
5	=	6.499			

*Wine Measure.*

E. tun.		hhds.		galls.		pints.		F. litres.
1	=	4	=	252	=	2,061	=	953·8045
F. tonneau.		barriques.		veltes.				F. litres.
1	=	4	=	120	=			912.

THE END.

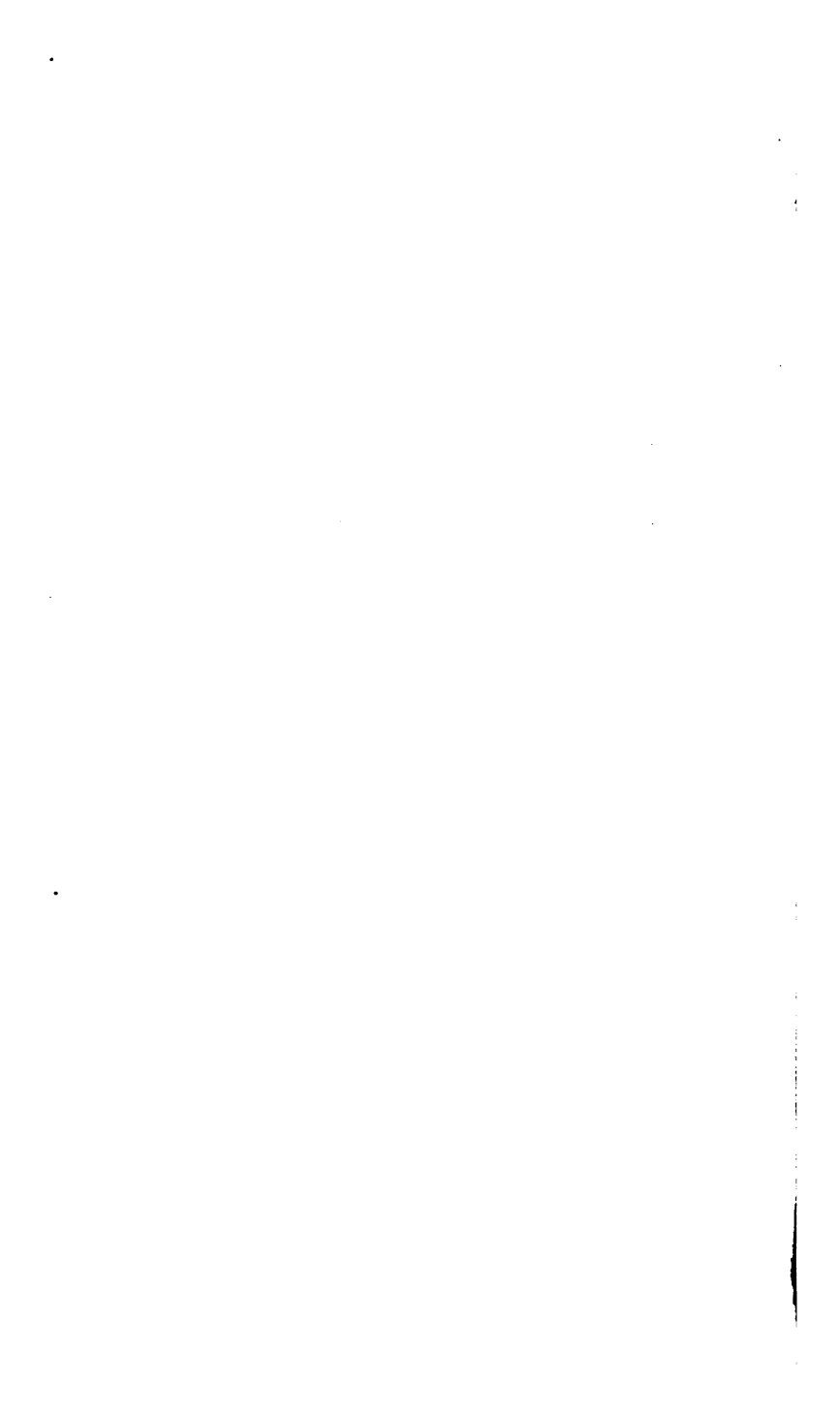
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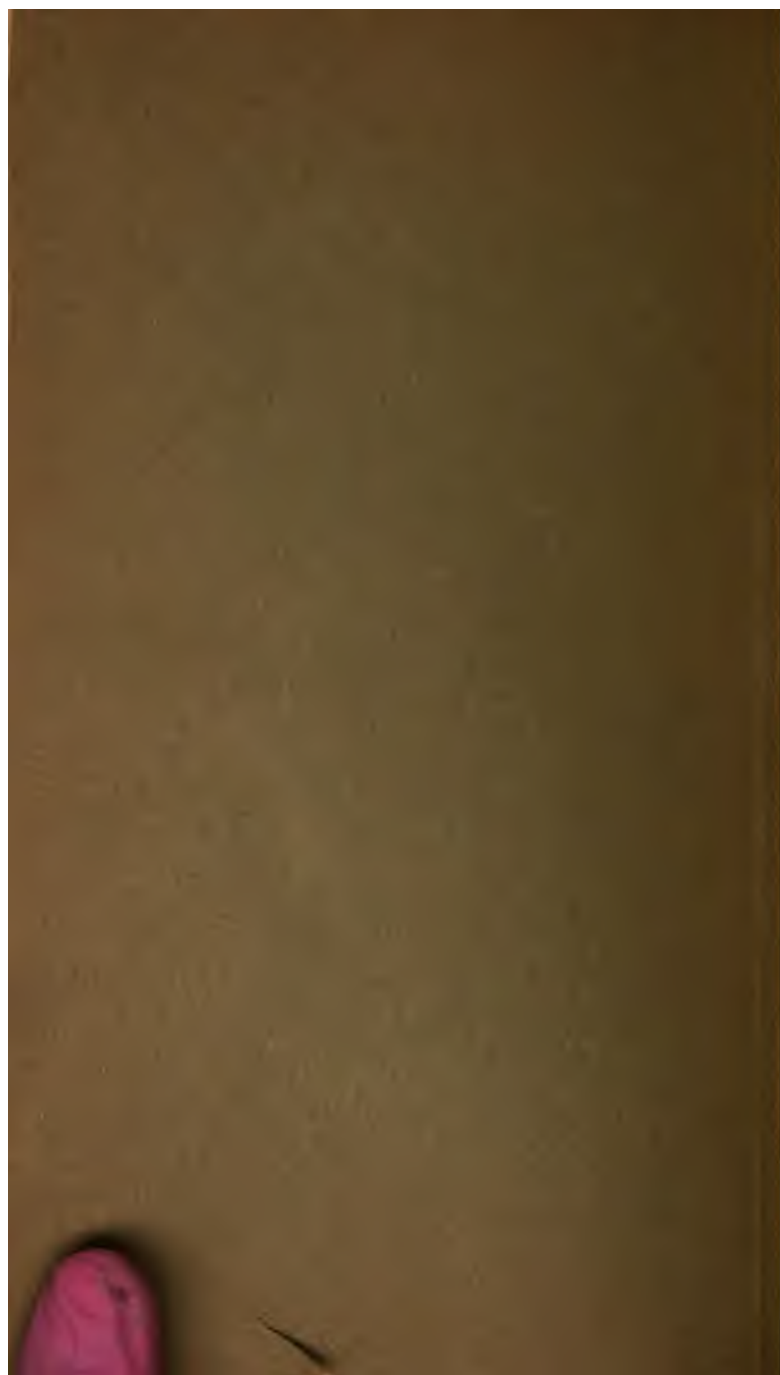
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